60¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

OCTOBER 23rd, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 43

030272
E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	7:55	8:15	8:35	8:55	8:25	8:50	9:15	9:45	11:15	11:45	11:10	11:40	7:45	8:10	10/23
FRI.	8:40	9:05	9:25	9:45	9:15	9:40	10:05	10:40	–	12:05	–	12:00	8:35	9:00	10/24
SAT.	9:30	9:55	10:15	10:40	10:05	10:35	10:55	11:30	12:40	12:50	12:30	12:50	9:25	9:50	10/25
SUN.	9:20	9:50	10:05	10:30	10:00	10:30	10:45	11:25	12:30	12:45	12:20	12:40	9:15	9:40	10/26
MON.	10:10	10:45	10:55	11:25	10:55	11:30	11:40	–	1:25	1:35	1:15	1:35	10:05	10:35	10/27
TUE.	11:05	11:45	11:55	–	11:55	–	12:20	12:40	2:35	2:40	2:10	2:30	11:00	11:30	10/28
WED.	–	12:00	12:25	12:55	12:30	12:50	1:25	1:40	3:45	4:05	3:10	3:30	–	12:00	10/29
THUR.	12:40	12:55	1:35	2:00	1:30	1:50	2:30	2:50	4:55	5:20	4:15	4:35	12:35	1:00	10/30

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 03
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/24	7:23	6:06
10/25	7:24	6:04
10/26	6:26	5:03
10/27	6:27	5:01
10/28	6:28	5:00
10/29	6:29	4:59
10/30	6:31	4:57

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/9	10/17	10/23	10/30

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	4:20	**11:00**	4:50	**11:35**
Fri.	5:10	**—**	5:45	**12:00**
Sat.	6:10	**12:30**	6:45	**1:05**
Sun.	6:20	**1:35**	6:45	**1:05**
Mon.	7:20	**1:35**	7:45	**2:05**
Tues.	8:20	**2:40**	8:50	**3:05**
Wed.	9:20	**3:40**	9:50	**4:05**
Thurs.	10:20	**4:35**	10:45	**5:00**

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Volume 15, Number 43 **October 23rd, 1980**

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About the Cover—

Long Island striper addicts are sure to be interested in this photo of Conn. angler John Baldino and the 71 lb. striper he landed back in July. Taken on a live bunker near the Norwalk Islands, the catch has just been recognized by the IGFA as the new holder of the men's 30 lb. line class world record. John missed matching the existing all-tackle record by one pound.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **COD PRIMER**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rick Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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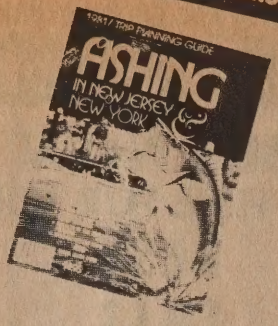

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE 25% on the 1981 edition of "FISHING IN NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK" magazine!

That's right, as a reader of "THE FISHERMAN", you qualify for a 25% discount on the enlarged 210 page annual which will sell for $4.95. If you act now, we will send it to you, hot off the press, in January, 1981 for only $3.70.

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Pass It On...

NWF RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

The National Wildlife Federation has set a deadline of December 31 for applications from graduate students for its 1981-82 Environmental Conservation Fellowships. To be eligible, applicants must be citizens of the U.S., Canada or Mexico who are pursuing degrees in a college or university graduate program or law school. They must be principally engaged in research, rather than course work, in fields related to wildlife, resources management, or the protection of environmental quality. Emphasis will be given to applicants intending to investigate topics of contemporary concern. Fellowships are offered to encourage research likely to provide information beneficial to NWF's conversation education programs. Grants are awarded in various amounts up to $4,000. NWF also awards joint fellowships with the American Petroleum Institute for studies involving petroleum and the conservation of wildlife. The deadline for the NWF-API fellowship is also December 31.

For more information, including a list of priority topics and an application form, write the Executive Vice President, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

FULL MOON STRIPED BASS TOURNY

The Montauk Marine Basin's 3rd Annual Full Moon Striped Bass Tournament will be held this year on October 24, 25 and 26. Boat anglers and surfcasters in the tournament will be fishing for stripers on feeding grounds from the Plum Gut to south of Block Island starting Friday, October 24 at 12 Noon. The 48-hour contest will be divided into four fishing periods, with money prizes and trophies for each period, and an overall winner.

More emphasis is to be put on attracting surfcasting entries this year, according to Carl Darenberg, Jr., president of the Montauk Marine Basin. He said that it is thought that the primary reason for very few surfcasters entered in the first two Full Moon tournaments had been because of insufficient notification of the event through their clubs and organizations. For example, a nine pounder won the surfcasting division the first year of the tournament and none was brought to the scales last year.

IGFA rules apply to boat anglers in the tournament except for the allowance of wire lining and umbrella rigs for trolling. No harpooning.

All anglers must register before fishing. A $15 fee is for 48 hours of fishing time, beginning October 24 at Noon, and ending Sunday, October 26, at 6PM.

ALOU EEL BACK!

The Alou Eel, one of the most productive and popular lures ever produced is now back in production, and will be on local tackle shop shelves shortly. It is now being manufactured by the Alou Tackle Manufacturing Corp., 170-3 Central Ave., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735. In addition to the Alou Eel, the firm will produce additional lures, rigs, and a line of custom quality fishing rods. Any inquiries should be sent to the above address.

CHUM LINES

KIND WORDS FROM A RECENT SUBSCRIBER

I am 39 years old and I have only been fishing for a few years; and this is my first time that I have written to anyone about anything. I come from Norfolk, Va., and never did any fishing at all until I came to New York. Three years ago a friend took me fishing one day and I have been hooked from that day on. I went out and bought myself a boat and began to read everything about fishing and this is how I began to read the L.I.F. Now I subscribe to a lot of magazines, but the L.I.F. is the one that stands above the rest. It gives me more information than any other magazine I read. This letter was going to be about a question I wanted answered, but I wanted you to know what a fine job you are doing and I am sure that anyone who reads the L.I.F. feels the same. One of my friends joked with me about putting so much faith in your magazine, but I tell him when I read the L.I.F. I know that I am getting the best information possible. Keep up the good work. *W. Glast, Mt. Kisco, N.Y.*

Willie, we're delighted that we have been able to make a significant and positive contribution to your fishing pleasure. We know that many of our readers have deep affection for the publication and that's great, because we have the same affection for you. We take some knuckle raps when we goof; and so it should be. But it's nice to know that our efforts are appreciated when we're on target! W.A.M.

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

TIME TO ACT ON TUNA REGULATIONS

Although public hearings on next year's tuna regulations won't be coming up for some time, now is the time to write to Allen E. Peterson, northeast regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with your comments on the present regulations and ideas for changes. For instance, you might want to see the licensing system simplified—or eliminated altogether. Or you may want a larger quota for the mid-Atlantic area—or an elimination of purse seining on schoolies. Indeed, there are many areas of the regulations that could well be changed for the better. Now is when the "in-house" ideas are being formulated in Gloucester, and it's the best time to advance new ideas.

That is exactly the reason I've sent the following letter to Al Peterson, urging him to restrict the mid-Atlantic giant tuna fishery to hook and line:

*****

Mr. Allen E. Peterson
Regional Director
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
Federal Bldg., 14 Elm St.
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Al:

In view of the recent trends in the tuna fisheries, I'm taking this opportunity to suggest a change in regulations for next year that may serve to avoid some real problems in the mid-Atlantic area. During each of the last two years, we've had runs of medium and giant tuna off Block Island and in the Mud Hole off the north Jersey coast. Hopefully, these runs indicate a trend and will be repeated each year—just as they were in the past. Compared to the northern fisheries, we don't catch a great many giants from these areas, though the number of medium fish taken off Block Island is an indication that all this could change.

At present, this fishery is conducted entirely with rod and reel. At least I'm not aware of any fish being handlined or harpooned. Of course, we still have to contend with the purse seiners, who often kill the fishing at Block Island for a couple of weeks, but that is the only commercial interference with our tuna fisheries at present. However, the downward trend of the tuna fisheries in the northern area (plus the intense competition there) may create some interest on the part of northern commercial handgear operators in the southern area. A few such handliners and harpooners probably wouldn't make any difference at all, but I'm fearful that the southern area could be turned into the same mess that now prevails in Massachusetts Bay. Though fish are still caught on rod and reel there (though fewer every year), virtually none are taken on sporting tackle—as they must be fought on a short line among a fleet of handliners who won't move. Many sport fishermen have simply given up fishing in that area due to this factor.

In order to avoid that situation in the mid-Atlantic, I'm proposing a bold initiative on the part of NMFS to restrict giant tuna fishing in the area south of Cape Cod to rod and reel. Since no other handgear is presently involved, no one will be hurt by such a regulation. The purse seiners have also traditionally operated north of the Cape, and it was my understanding with NMFS that they wouldn't fish for giants in our area. Yet, one boat has now done so two years in a row.

The Canadian government took such a bold step several years ago and it was worked out very well. Not only does it keep the tuna quota from being exceeded, but it also brings in a great deal of revenue from tourism and charter boat fishing. Commercial fishing actually continues, but with 130 lb. rod and reel gear—and there is no gear conflict problem, as everyone is fishing the same way.

The quota for the southern area is already quite small, and with a good year class of mediums becoming small giants, there is a good possibility that the quota could be filled with the early run off Block Island—even before the giants usually show in the Metropolitan New York area. This would especially be the case should an influx of handliners and harpooners from the north come into this area.

Bold action by NMFS to restrict the southern area fishery to rod and reel would, at the same time, eliminate gear conflicts and probably enable us to live with our relatively small quota of giants. With the school tuna fishery in very sad shape, we need some help in order to preserve the one portion of the tuna fishery that appears to be returning to our waters! Sincerely, Al Ristori

*****

While there may not seem to be much to worry about in terms of an invasion of handliners and harpooners from northern areas right now, this could happen quite suddenly if the fishing continues to fall off there and improves in this area. The normal value of the fish is now such that there will be plenty of incentive for such a move. The tuna fishing we experienced this year was like the "good old days" on Stellwagen Bank, when there was only sport fishing (giant tuna were worth five cents a pound, headed and gutted) and everyone respected a boat with a fish on. For the last several years that area has been a circus, with hundreds of boats anchored on top of each other and fighting for every single valuable fish. In order to catch these fish, the rod and reel boats have been going to lines with breaking strengths of 250 to 300 lbs., and trying to stop the fish cold. There's very little there that resembles sport fishing, and I wouldn't want to see it happen here!

If you'd like to get your fifteen cents worth in, write to Al Peterson at NMFS, Federal Building, 14 Elm St., Gloucester, MA 01930.

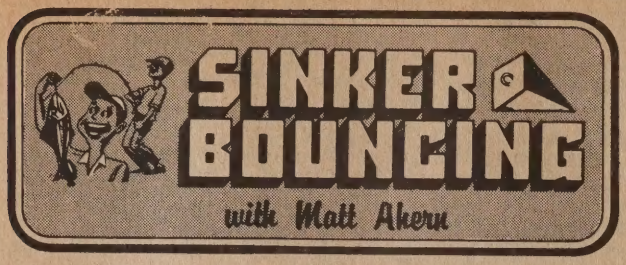
Mount St. Helen's Area Should Come Back

The eruption of Mount St. Helen's took a devasting toll on that portion of the State of Washington. More than seventy people died or disappeared; 240 miles of woodland were obliterated; twenty-six lakes were destroyed, and nearly eleven million fish and 1.5 million other animals were wiped out. The losses were put at more than $1 billion and the short-term prognosis is not good. However, according to "National Wildlife" magazine, the long-range prospects are much better.

It is expected that the volcanic ashes will eventually enrich the soil and that scientists will have, as one of them put it, "a rare opportunity to see how the earth regenerates itself... In some places, everything must start all over again." Perhaps the saddest part of the destruction caused by the eruptions was the devastation of the 145 mile Toutle River, one of the few remaining undammed rivers in the Northwest. Scientists expect that the trout and salmon will eventually return, and are encouraged by the fact that some salmon have already navigated through the high levels of silt in the Cowlitz River—another waterway that was severely damaged.

Unfortunately, there isn't a thing we can do about such eruptions, and scientists expect others to occur in the Cascade range that runs from British Columbia to northern California. About six hundred years ago, Mt. Rainier smothered the Puyallup River with mud, but when the first white explorers arrived in western Washington four hundred years later, that river was alive with trout and salmon. Therefore, scientists are taking a philosophical view of this tragedy. As Washington Department of Game official Jon Gilstrom was quoted as saying in "National Wildlife": "What happened at Mount St. Helen's has happened a thousand times before in the Pacific Northwest and will surely happen again. Nature has a way of taking care of herself."

Lest I lead you astray, let me say I have never considered fall and winter ideal seasons for ling fishing, especially in the New York Bight. Not that the prospects are nil, but party boat ling fanatics know May, June, and the first half of July (before offshore waters warm) produce best. Then why am I writing a ling fishing article now instead of waiting at least until next spring? Well, if October's blackfishing and next month's



LING FISHING

codfishing leave much to be desired, there is the opportunity of putting ling in the bucket with a bit of extra effort. Truthfully, doing this has saved the day for me more times than I care to recall. I'm prejudiced, too, for I've a warm spot in my fishing heart for ling—always did. As Captain Clark Bellows of the "Capt. Clark II" agreed one day, I'm a ling-jerker from 'way back. True enough.

Because finding ling at this time of year requires a bit more finesse than it does during spring (when some fishermen claim it takes no finesse at all), it is perhaps best if we first dispense with tackle, hooks, bait, etc.: with these out of the way, we can devote most of our time to finding fall ling.

Any tackle used for offshore fishing, except spinning gear, will do the job—even a handline, which is all many old-timers of long gone days needed to fill their butter tubs. (Not much fun, though.) Codfishing tackle will serve if that's all you've got, but what I have in mind is medium-weight stuff. Ling aren't the greatest fighters in the world, so you might as well use something which will supply a little sport.

Rigging, as with everything else about ling fishing, is simple. Bottom composition dictates what type of rig to use, however. If it is open, with few obstructions, I think it best to tandem-tie two 4/0 regular-shanked Sproat hooks and place them about three inches above a suitable bank sinker, usually five to eight ounces, depending upon tidal or drifting conditions.

To tandem tie is no problem, but it is best to practice a few times until it becomes second nature. Take two 4/0 Sproats and fold the snell of one at its middle. Pass this fold through the knotted loop of the second hook. Run this hook through the first fold, draw up snugly, and secure with a common overhand knot. This last step is important—don't overlook it! Should you do so, one hook will ride down the snell of the other, causing annoyance and much frustration.

Many times ling are caught around obstructed bottom—wrecks, rocks, etc. Although this type of bottom is more likely to produce ling in springtime, one never knows. If you find yourself in such a situation, dispense with the tandem setup and put your faith in the popular hi-lo rig. Simply tie one hook two inches above the sinker and the other far enough above it to avoid tangling. Although you will occasionally catch ling on the top hook, you are more likely to snag whiting, especially if this hi-lo rig is also used on gravel bottoms. And if you're lucky—really lucky—you might even deck a cod. This happens more often than most fishermen realize. Because of this possibility, some fishermen use a 5/0 or 6/0 Sproat hook on top. I never do when ling fishing and I've never had a bit of trouble landing the occasional cod I've caught on 4/0s. But to each his own, they say, and if you feel a larger hook offers better insurance, by all means use one. You certainly won't go wrong.

When I'm purposely fishing for ling during fall and winter, I use the same rod and reel as when offshore fishing in summer for porgy, sea bass, and fluke—a medium-weight seven footer and a 155 Penn reel filled with twenty pound test good quality mono (thirty pound if I feel there's a chance of nailing a cod). But if I'm codfishing at the time and it leaves much to be desired, I'm stuck with the heavy stuff—with nothing much I can do about it. I just go ahead and put it to work, although I know the fishing will not be as enjoyable.

Bait for ling offers no problem at all. Old pot-belly is extremely cooperative in this respect. It doesn't even have to be in A-1 condition, although you'll always do better with fresh stuff. Sliced skimmer, squid, fish strips, sand eels; anything of a like nature will be welcomed. If you are fortunate (?) enough to catch a bergall or two, don't hesitate to slice off both sides (scales on) and cut each piece into three inch strips, a half-inch or so wide. Run the hook through twice and allow a bit to dangle free for best results. I'll admit bergall strips do become mushy after awhile, but you'll catch a lot of ling on them before this happens. I'm surprised ling fishermen do not use fish strips more often.

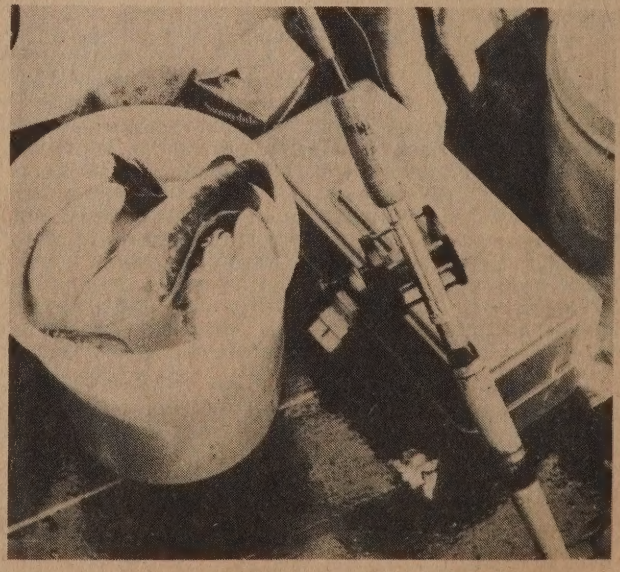
As for fishing methods when over open bottom, I find it best to jig with short lifts of the rod—but not too fast. Ling aren't blessed with the speed of mackerel. If done properly, you will feel the fish hook itself. Over a wreck or similar "sticky" areas, it is best to keep the bait quiet. Not because doing so makes the bait more attractive, but only that you will more easily become snagged on the obstruction if you do.

Should you use chum? Perhaps it would have been better to ask: is chum necessary? Definitely "no" if you are fishing over a wreck, although I've seen times when chumming worked wonders when fishing the outside edge of a particularly sticky wreck such as the Iberia off Long Beach. Usually, though, the fish are already concentrated and there is no compelling need to do so. And again "no" if you are drifting over open bottom. Of what use would it be?

Some fellows, though, select a piece of familiar open bottom known to contain ling, get the anchor over, and sample the action. If a few fish come up, but the overall results are nothing to rave about, chum, in the form of cracked, whole skimmer can be used. If the pick is fairly steady, I would refrain from chumming. At the cost of skimmer today, I would certainly think twice about using it to increase the action if the fish are already responding without any more effort on your part. The days of fifty cents a bushel skimmer are long gone.

All right: now where can a fisherman go to catch a few ling at this time of year? There are many places on tap, and if you're party boat fishing, what follows may not be too important to you. Your skipper knows all there is to

(Continued on page 11.)

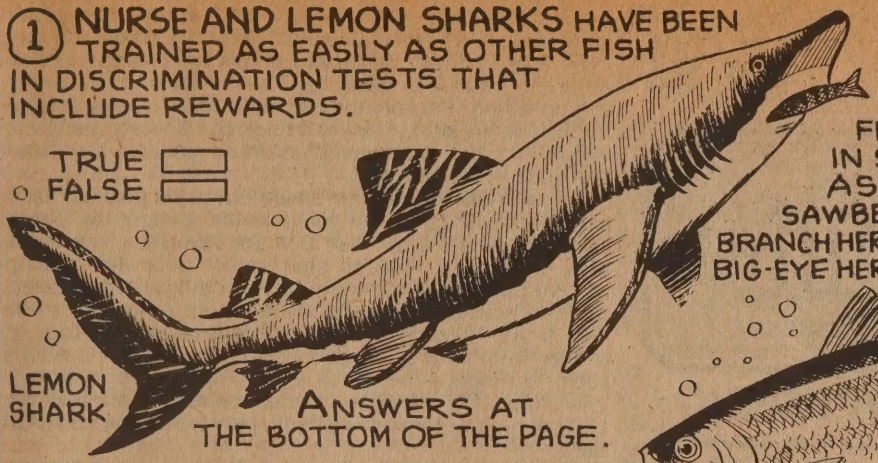


Full buckets are common when ling fishing.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) NURSE AND LEMON SHARKS HAVE BEEN TRAINED AS EASILY AS OTHER FISH IN DISCRIMINATION TESTS THAT INCLUDE REWARDS.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



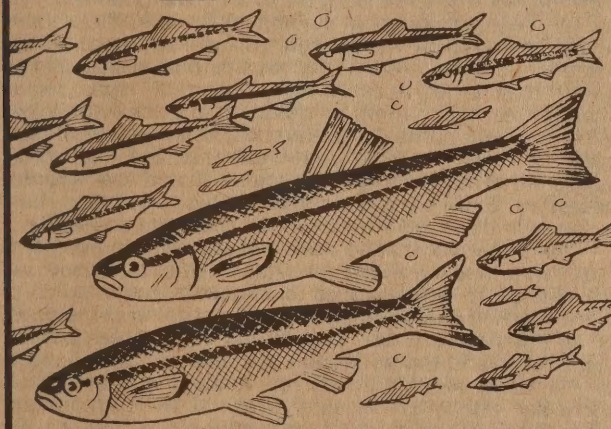
LEMON SHARK

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

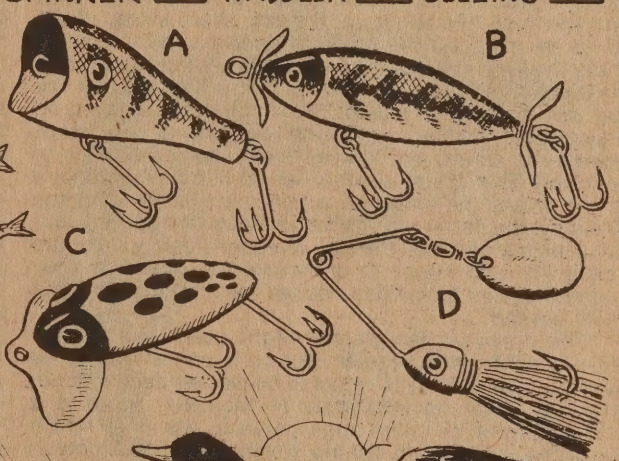
(2) THIS SMALL FOOT-LONG BLUE-BACK HERRING RUNS UP THE ATLANTIC COAST FRESHWATER STREAMS IN SPRING. IT IS KNOWN AS AN ALEWIFE ☐
SAWBELLY ☐ BUNKY ☐
BRANCH HERRING ☐ KYACK ☐
BIG-EYE HERRING ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) A SCHOOL OF MINNOWS, KILLIES OR OTHER BAITFISH IS KNOWN AS
A FLEET ☐ STREAM ☐ LEGION ☐

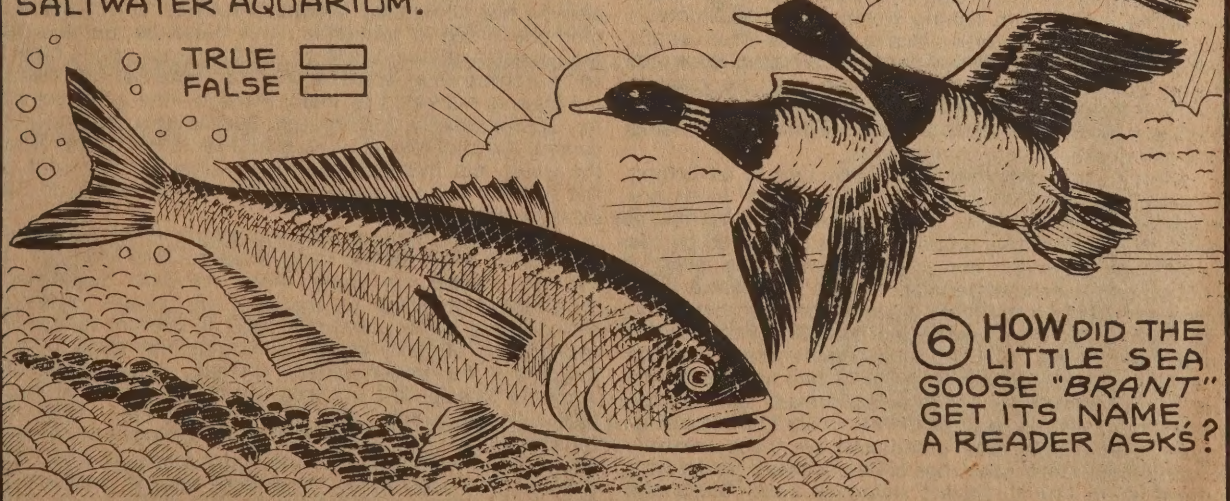


(4) IDENTIFY THESE FRESHWATER LURES AS TO TYPE ... CHUGGING ☐
SPINNER ☐ WADDLER ☐ BUZZING ☐



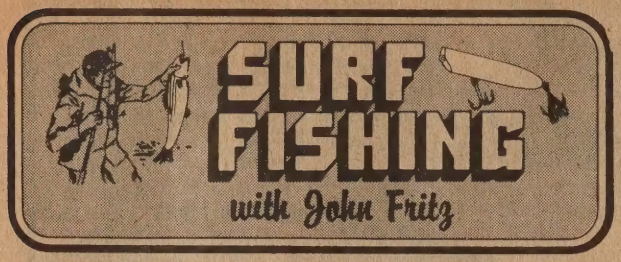
(5) SNAPPERS OR SMALL BLUE-FISH CAN BE KEPT IN A HOME SALTWATER AQUARIUM.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(6) HOW DID THE LITTLE SEA GOOSE "*BRANT*" GET ITS NAME, A READER ASKS?

1 - TRUE. 2 - ALL SIX NAMES. 3 - STREAM. 4 - (A) CHUGGING (B) SPINNER (C) WADDLER (D) BUZZING. 5 - TRUE. THE SMALLER THE BETTER, SHOULD BE KEPT IN LARGE TANK, EATS ANYTHING. 6 - THE NAME "*BRANT*" (OMES FROM THE GERMAN WORD "*BRAND*", MEANING "*BURNT*" - REFERS TO THE WATERFOWL'S DARK FEATHERS.



COLD WINDS—HOT FISHING

The crisp night air, in sharp contrast to the cozy warmth of the buggy, sent shivers through the two partners as they walked to the water's edge and peered into the darkness at the swirling waters of North Bar. Content that the rip was working satisfactorily, they hurriedly donned their surf gear in the lee of the vehicle, partially sheltered from the biting northwest wind. Tonight would be a matter of endurance, for the brutal weather conditions on this late fall evening had seemingly kept everyone else close by the fireside. The recurring thought about being insane to suffer this discomfort for no worthwhile reason was quickly displaced with thoughts of how many cow bass were lurking out there in the luxury of their environment.

The heavy white darter sailed into the night air on a course, if possible, that would place it on Shagwong Point. With the slack line taken up, a short, sharp sweep of the rod tip set the lip of the plug into the rip. As the current swung the lure in a wide arc to the right, a pulsating throb was transmitted back to the angler assuring him that the plug was working correctly. The biting wind blowing on spray-soaked hands forced the anglers a few steps backward in an attempt to keep them above the reach of the water. This brutal weather would curtail this night's fishing unless the expected action materialized. On the third cast, the darter was halted midway into its long arc, with a mighty heave on the rod, one angler was solidly into a good fish and forced to undertake the classic journey around the point as the fish headed for the False Bar and points beyond.

The previous paragraphs might seem like wasted effort to a Montauk regular, but to a percentage of us "tourists," as Johnny K refers to us west-enders who are unfamiliar with the intricacies of Montauk, there is a certain amount of information between the lines which give some insight into fishing North Bar. The Montauk Point area is such a diverse place to fish that a full length book could be written and still not cover all the phases and proven techniques which have evolved over the years. I will try to show what is possible on a limited stretch of this beach at a given time of the season with the wind blowing from one quarter of the compass.

Most surfmen who have spent any time at all fishing Montauk are aware that east and northwest winds are beneficial, for they tend to push the baitfish close to the beach. Winds from this quarter, although desired by the majority of surfmen, can create tumultuous seas if continuing for extended periods of time. Such seas are apt to pocket the bait in sheltered areas to the west, hindering their normal migration eastward around Shagwong, North Bar and the Point itself. With a clearing trend and a switch to west or northwest winds, this flow of bait will resume its journey to their winter haven or be preyed upon by the game fish lurking in the rips of the notable points of this region. The ebbing tide stimulated by these westerly winds will push vast quantities of bait seaward providing a natural chum line to attract ravenous bass, blues and weaks. If the wind is shaded to a northerly direction, its normal course with winter approaching, so much the better—for it will force this bait closer to the beach within casting distance of the shore-bound angler. Excessive winds over extended periods will roil the surf to the detriment of good fishing.

Since northwest winds are prevalent during the autumn season, the time for the celebrated Fall Run when all creatures are preparing for the onslaught of winter, ideal fishing can be enjoyed on numerous occasions. All too often the majority of anglers pack it in when there is excellent fishing still to be had. With the colder temperatures of November and early December driving most anglers from the beach, ample opportunity to fish different places is presented with little concern for overcrowding. Persistence and endurance are key factors for the fish are present even though the air temperature is winter-like, the water temperature is suitable for game fish such as striped bass.

The areas most preferred all tend to be points of land which create rips on outgoing water. Shagwong, North Bar, Jones Reef and False Bar are favored a few hours after the stated time of high water when the ebbing current has gained momentum. It should be remembered that the tides at Shagwong are one hour later than those "up front." Scotts and the Lighthouse can be tried if shelter from a fierce wind is desired, but these locations seem to produce more fish on the top of the incoming. Therefore, it is advisable to make plans to start at the Light at high water and work your way west towards North Bar.

The tackle used almost exclusively for this autumn fishing consists of eleven foot rods with large line capacity reels spooled with fifteen to twenty pound test line. On many occasions, long casts are necessary and this, coupled with the fact that large sized plugs are most often used in the fall, requires euipment suitable to the task. Pink Ande line is preferred by many regulars for it withstands the frequent abrasion encountered on this rock-strewn shore better than other lines. When fishing at night some sharpies feel they benefit by changing to black Ande line. Whatever your particular preference, be prepared—make sure the reels are filled with fresh line and that extra spools are handy for a speedy change should one become necessary. Extra plugs are almost always to be found, but a reel with defective line cannot be remedied so readily.

Naturally waders and a waterproof top with hood are required unless the angler intends to fish in a wet suit. A dry change of warm clothes is advisable, for frequently water will find its way either down the opening at the neck or up the sleeves under loose fitting cuffs. A terry cloth towel rolled and tucked around the neck will absorb most of the water attempting to run down the chest. This particular discomfort is most likely to be encountered when fishing under the Light where crashing waves striking the protecting boulders send showers of spray over anyone near the water's edge.

The struggle to keep water from forcing its way up the sleeves has compelled Montauk surfmen to try several methods aimed at preventing this nuisance. Some wrap their wrists with vinyl tape or Ace bandages, while others will purchase snug wristlets or the commercial fish-cleaning sleeves marketed by Helly Hansen—the latter selling for approximately $10 in the Surfcaster's catalog. Of course, the simplest solution would be to back away from the water, but this is difficult if the lineup is out front or the fish are lying a good distance off the beach, at the extreme reach of a cast.

One other item of clothing which is of particular importance when fishing rocky areas such as Montauk, is the ice creeper or some other non-skid attachment fastened to the sole of the boot. A popular method, although not perfect, which is used to prevent falls from treading on slippery rocks, is to glue felt soles to the bottoms of the rubber waders. Instead, a pair of sandals made for this specific purpose can be purchased at most tackle stores which cater to surf fishermen. Stocking waders worn underneath felt-soled sneakers is a less wide-spread technique, but one which works as well. The wet suit clan uses either these same altered sneakers or golf shoes which come equipped with metal studs. The latter will guarantee the most secure footing and while I know that these studs are sold individually, I have not tried to attach them to any pair of waders.

I've written too many words on clothing already, but I feel that an angler should be as comfortable as possible. Since Montauk is unique in many ways, newcomers to the

area should come east with some idea as to what can be expected from this difficult shore.

Since the slant of this article is towards fall fishing, larger plugs are used in an effort to imitate the full-grown bait prevalent at this time. The two most popular lures by far are the darter and bottle plugs. Under normal conditions, the bottle plug is used in the early stages of the tide before the current is flowing at full strength or when choppy seas prevail and the smaller lip of the darter is ineffective. The larger lip on the bottle plug will offer more resistance to the water flow thereby giving better action in weak currents. On many occasions, it is difficult to set the nose of a plug in choppy seas, but with the bottle plug, one or two sharp sets of the rod will allow the lip to dig in enabling it to produce an action when other plugs are swept about by the waves.

When the current picks up greater strength, the bottle plug will dive too deep often snagging the bottom; at this time it is wise to switch to a darter. The waters off North Bar down to Jones Reef are relatively shallow and the smaller lip of the darter will provide the needed action during the bottom stages of the tide when faster currents and lower depths are encountered.

All this is not to say that darters will not produce at the top of the tide—they do, and if no results are forthcoming with one plug, by all means try another type. Furthermore, when casting into a strong wind, plugs such as the Super Strike darter will reach the furthest.

The same holds true for color. While white and yellow are preferred by most regulars, blue, green, brown, or even black have been the hot shade on certain occasions.

The above plugs are the workhorses of Montauk after sunset; but that does not mean that metal-lipped swimmers such as the Atom 40, Super Strike, Danny or Goo Goo Eyes plugs won't produce under some conditions—normally in areas of lesser tidal flow such as at Jones or Scotts. Since these plugs do not cast well, this type lure is most effective when fishing a calm surf, which is not encountered too often at Montauk in the autumn. One or two of this type plug should be included in the surf bag to be used when conditions warrant.

Even though the darters and bottle plugs are of substantial weight, there are occasions when it is impossible to cast a plug any distance, much less getting it to work in a turbulent sea. Heavy tins painted white or yellow will often enable a surfman to salvage an otherwise wasted trip. When fierce onshore winds exist which do not force the fish into the wash, these tins will permit an angler to make a decent cast with the confidence that he is placing a time-tested lure within reach of the fish.

Another lure which allows a decent cast into a head wind, but one which is chiefly used under the Light, is the bucktail. Although this lure presents its problems when fishing boulder-strewn areas such as this, it has been a successful item when the technique can be mastered, as shown by many of the Montauk regulars. In this particular area, the bucktail cannot be allowed to bounce along the bottom, but it must be permitted to work the depths. If this productive type fishing is attempted a good supply of extra lures should be on hand, for inevitably some will become snagged and lost.

All that you've read so far is directed at fishing after dark when the major portion of Montauk's serious surf fishing is undertaken, although the possibilities of daylight action does present itself during the fall months. Heavy popping plugs such as the Polaris or Pencil Poppers are the ideal choice when fishing into the teeth of that nor'wester at North Bar. The same technique of casting to the left front—on the ebb tide, of course—and letting the plug swing to the right as it is splashed slowly along the top of the water will often yield dividends. Again, if the wind is too strong a switch to tin can make the difference.

Many of you have undoubtedly read or heard much about Montauk's famed fishing. Like anywhere else, it has its good days and bad; but at the Island's eastern tip so many more opportunities present themselves to the surfman that a concerted effort at learning this area should be foremost in every serious fisherman's priorities. Naturally conditions change from day to day; therefore, a check with Johnny at Kronuch's Tackle Shop is worthwhile.

For most of us, Montauk is further away than we would like; therefore, when a trip is undertaken all areas which will ensure success should be explored and prepared for.

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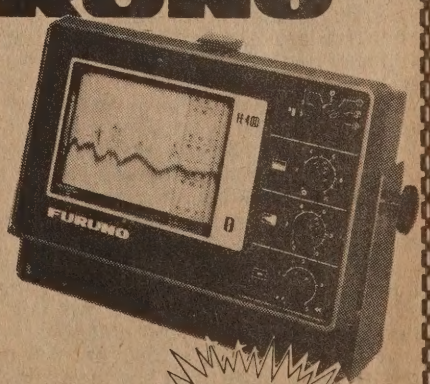

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FALL MAGIC! We hear and read a lot about fall magic and so it should be, since this is the season when the water cools down and many species of fish are either fattening up for the long winter or are migrating to climates where they can survive the long, hard winter in style. Still, most of the "hot" talk revolves around the big three predators: weaks, bass, and blues. What about the "lowly" bottom dwellers? I use the term "lowly" advisedly, since I personally don't see anything lowly

FISH TALK with William A. Muller

BLACKFISH MAGIC

about them at all. The big three are nice for the purist and the guy or gal who doesn't mind fishing for days without a fish, but the bottom feeders provide a lot more action and some of the best table fare available from the sea.
sea.

WHY FALL FOR BLACKFISH? Aren't blackfish available in the spring? Sure they are; but they aren't the monsters that we can catch in the fall. No one seems to fully understand, for the most part, why spring blackfish aren't as consistently big in the spring as they are in the fall. One can argue perhaps that they have had all season to grow, yet as fast as some fish can grow, few that we know of can grow from two pounds in May, to eleven or twelve in October. No, there is a real difference between the fish we pick over in spring and those we shoot for in fall. Part of the reason may be that spawning blackfish, fresh off their winter hibernation, aren't usually interested in the large crab baits we use in the fall. Typically, the spring blacks prefer worms and other soft baits such as clams. Some say it's because their lips are soft, and certainly examination of their mouths reveals a difference between the fish in each season. But beyond this, the big fish seem to move into the shallow water feeding areas in the fall. The blacks are eager eaters too, since, like other species, they have to put on some extra meat to carry them through the winter. Evidence suggests that the blacks, which do not migrate north and south to any great degree, do move inshore and offshore with the seasons and winter-over some distance off the beach.

GREEN CRABS AND HERMITS. This may seem like an unlikely combination, but, of course, we are referring to hermit crabs and not hermit people. Although there are many baits that will catch blacks in the fall—such as worms, clams and fiddler crabs—the green crab and the hermit crab are superior baits in the estimation of most blackfishermen who rate as sharpies. Now, hermit crabs aren't the easiest baits to come across, but the conscientious among us can get enough for a day's fishing. Some can be gotten by scouring the beach at low tide, but more are taken in lobster pots. If you know somebody with pots out there who doesn't have a passion for blackfishing, see if you can work out an arrangement.

GREEN. By far, the easiest crabs to secure are green crabs. Many bait and tackle dealers carry them in the fall, but since not every dealer sells them it is a good idea to call and ask first before you make the trip. Some dealers who normally do not stock them, will buy them on special order. You may, under these conditions, have to buy ten or twelve dozen, but this investment will give you enough crabs for two or three trips, and the crabs can be kept alive rather easily.

ASK YOUR WIFE FIRST! Not every wife may be understanding enough to tolerate green crabs in the refrigerator, but perhaps if you explain how important it is, she'll go along. Many fishermen get around the problem by purchasing a refrigerator secondhand for the basement or the garage where they can keep baits of all kinds. The refrigerator shouldn't be kept too cold as most baits will die quickly in a very cold fridge. Keep the crabs in the vegetable bins where it is cool, but not cold. Thus, even an old, less than totally efficient refrigerator will do just fine, and such an animal may be available secondhand at a very reasonable price. Take old newspapers and shred them. Soak the paper in water, but the paper should not be dripping wet—only damp. Put the crabs in the bins. You can keep about five or six dozen in each bin. Cover the crabs with several sheets of damp newspaper. Check the crabs each day and remove any that are dead. The crabs will be lethargic, so be careful not to assume that a cold, slow crab is dead. Green crabs will survive in the refrigerator this way for several weeks. The cold slows down their metabolism, minimizes the build-up of waste products, and discourages the incidents of disease.

CHUM! I have always found that it pays to chum when blackfishing, although may pros disagree. I have found that the chum stimulates their feeding and "pulls" larger blacks from the periphery of their feeding area. Under normal circumstances, blackfish will not move too far from the nook-and-cranny they call home. However, you can still catch them if your bait is offered right in front of their faces. To me, that's too "iffy" and I prefer to set up in a productive spot and work the fish an entire tide, drawing in the blacks from an area several hundred feet in diameter by chumming heavily.

WHAT TO USE. Almost anything will work. You can crush green crabs for your pot, but that may be a little expensive. Skimmer clams also work well and these can usually be bought at a reasonable price. Some bait and tackle dealers sell clam chum already ground up and in cyclindrical containers that fit right into the commercially available chum pots. Three or four of these will do for a tide's fishing. Call before you travel. Mussels are great chum for blackfish and bank mussels can be collected with a little effort. Since bait and tackle stores usually carry mussels for the spring flounder season, it may be that the dealer near your home may not carry them now. So check with them. If you're interested in a bushel they may get them for you on a special order. Fiddler crabs were once a cheap and easy-to-get bait for the chum pot; but in recent years changes in the laws in various states has increased the price and made them less available. However, there are still a few places where you can "round-up" your supply of fiddlers. Mixed baits for chum are also fine. A little clam, a little mussel, and a little crab. When you clean the green crabs, for example, most experts suggest that you remove the large claws and these can be saved for the chum pot. Mash them in a bucket first so that tiny pieces will drift away with the tide.

GETTING THE BAIT READY. There is different thinking about the best way to cut the bait crabs. Some suggest that the crab need only be cut in half after removing the outer top shell. Others say use the whole crab without the back shell if the crabs are small. They leave the claws on, and I don't argue with their success. However, there is another theory that says you should take the back shell off, remove the large pincher claws, and then quarter the crabs.

BAITING THE HOOK. Most serious blackfishermen hook up the bait in a similar way; that is, they put the point of the hook into one of the sockets of the small claws and then out again through another one. We agree, since this holds the bait well and conceals most of the hook. Concealing the hook can be very important on larger blackfish that can be very weary and wise. Years ago, most fishermen used tarred lines for blackfishing. These dark olive lines were very conspicuous, but they were tough and prevented a lot of lost fish and tackle. In those days that was all we had at our disposal. Today, most blackfishermen use heavy monofilament leaders because mono blends with the water better and the blacks are less line shy.

THE HOOK! The blackfish hook remains the Virginia, although other hooks will do in a pinch. The Virginia, however, is ideal for blackfish since the shape, bend, and gap are perfect for hooking blackfish. Some fishermen have been pushing large Sproats, but the bulk

of the experts still insist on the Virginia.

THE TACKLE RIG. The trend in recent years has been to reduce the use of hardware in terminal tackle. The trend has continued, much to the chagrin of those who manufacture the hardware, but there appears to be good reason for the trend, especially as it pertains to blackfish and flounder. Flounder tend to be where it's a little weedy in the spring and blackfish, of course, live in rock piles, wrecks, and other rubble piles. Hardware catches on the rubble and that usually means a lost rig. Today's preferred rig calls for two blackfish hooks on six to eight inch leaders tied in tandem. In case you have never tied such a rig, I'll refer you to others for an explanation rather than take space up here. All three of The Fisherman's booklets (Weaks, Flounder, and Fluke) show how to tie it; Matt Ahern's column has discussed the tandem rig in all of its manifestations, and Andy Regina's western Sound articles have also done justice to the subject. The tandem hook rig is then tied to the main line a few inches above the sinker. This may surprise you and some blackfishermen insist that the hooks should be tied to the main line a few inches above the sinker. This point of view has merit, but we have found that by tying the hooks slightly above the sinker that the baits wave about in the currents and the blackfish can see them better. Hooks tied directly to the sinker often become hidden in rocks where the fish have to work too hard to get at them. Why not experiment with both and see which works best for you.

WHERE TO FISH! As previously stated, blacks hang around the rock and rubble piles. However, although on the South Shore the fisherman has to work a limited number of reefs and rock piles and thus is severely restricted in terms of fishing spots, the North Shore fisherman has an endless number of spots where blackfish roam. So, in the Sound which rocky spot do you fish? Again, there are usually fish on all the spots, but not all of them have fish big enough to push ten pounds. For the big blacks, we prefer the tips of underwater points of land where the currents usually rip along smartly as the tide moves out of fifty to one hundred feet of water onto and over the underwater shoal that may be twenty to thirty feet deep. Montauk remains the haven for blackfishermen who like their fish big. Ten to fifteen pounders are not uncommon from the Cartwright Grounds and Cerebrus Shoals north of Lake Montauk. Orient Point is no slouch either. Although monsters are not as common as Orient, ten pounders are, and the fish can be very abundant. Check with Port of Egypt's Auxiliary Station for details on boat rentals.

MOVE A LOT! Blacks do not like to move away from home. Therefore, you could be anchored only a few hundred feet from a good body of fish and yet not be catching any fish. Thus, we have found that it pays to move a lot: not big moves of many miles, but rather five hundred feet in this direction and then five hundred in that direction. Give each drop about a half an hour. If there are a lot of bergalls and you suspect that some of the harder tugs may be blackfish, give the spot an hour. It is possible to fish through the bergalls and when you do, the blacks will become more eager.

HOOKING THEM. Blackfish can be very tricky. They approach a bait and pick it up rather easily. The fisherman will feel this as a gentle tug. **Do not set** the hook now. The blackfish can spit out your bait very easily at this point. After the initial gentle tug there will likely be a short delay before you'll feel a bigger tug. This tug is sharp and has "weight." This is the term that fishermen use to mean that there is a critter of some substance down there. The second tug is the signal that the blackfish has moved the bait back to the throat where it has crusher teeth to mash the bait. At this time, set the hook sharply by lifting the rod smartly. Try to pick up a few feet of line at this time to prevent the blackfish, especially larger ones, from "dogging it" back into the rock pile.

GREAT TABLE FARE. Blackfish make great eating. The flesh is white, flaky, and tender and the taste is suitable to many uses from broiling to fish chowder. So why not give that old black magic a try and go blackfishing this October and November. You may find that black magic improves the fall magic of fishing.

Sinker Bouncing: LING FISHING

(Continued from page 6.)

know about ling fishing. But what you read from here on should be kept in mind—you never know when it might apply in the future. For those fellows on their own with a few fishing buddies, I'll list the areas I've found most productive for ling during fall and winter.

We'll stick to the South Shore of Long Island for this. Not that those areas farther west, such as the Ambrose Light Tower grounds, Ambrose Ridge, the old Scotland Light grounds, Scallop Ridge, or offshore of Long Branch, New Jersey, or the Shrewsbury Rocks, do not produce ling. They do, of course; but I've always found springtime ling fishing in these areas to be better.

Most of my ling fishing at this time of year is done within striking distance of Jones Inlet. This can be south of the inlet around buoy 2, or south of buoy 4 off Atlantic Beach (Far Rockaway Inlet), or that great cod-producing areas: the Southeast Grounds.

I enjoy fishing the Southeast Grounds because should the cod fail, it is a simple matter to change over to ling fishing, and, if the weather is decent, drift around the area until I hit into a school of ling. Success doing this is not always assured, but it works more times than not.

The Cholera Bank, which at one time was the cod producer of all cod-producers, will sometimes come up with some pretty good ling fishing. But unless I'm forced to, I shun it. Early July produces best here—especially the "high spots." You'll find, too, that during the cold months, bergalls usually become a problem. Of all places to seek ling, I think the Cholera Bank during fall and winter produces least. This has been my experience over the years.

I think water temperature at this time of year is the most important consideration for ling fishermen. Of course, there isn't much we can do about that. Ling are cool water fish—not cold, mind you. Therefore, it is quite possible to knock ling dead one day in an area such as the Southeast Grounds, return the next and never get a bite. (This also applies during springtime, especially so during the latter part of the season.) I think this haphazard fishing is the main reason most fishermen never consider fall ling fishing. But if you can locate the fish, the results are usually superb.

Last November I had such an experience.

I had joined a codfishing trip along with a couple of the fellows and we fished those very same Southeast Grounds on this particular day. Outside of one fisherman losing an ice cod on the way up, the action was deader than the proverbial doornail. We stuck it out all morning, bored to tears, and when noontime arrived, someone made the suggestion to pull anchor and drift around a bit, hoping against hope that we might run across a stray cod or two. We caught no cod, but we did hit into a school of good-sized ling. Occasionally a big whiting would come up but this was the exception. We continued to catch ling until we became arm-weary. We never once drifted out of the action.

That evening I called a few buddies and we planned a trip for the next day. This exceptional cold-weather ling fishing was too much to overlook. We returned to the same area, and, as best as I could determine, to the same spot. We drifted and drifted for hours without so much as one ling or whiting. Eventually we took the hint that there were no ling for us that day and anchored up. We caught three cod—one a thirty-five pounder. You figure it.

But all in all, though, should your codfishing or blackfishing become less than expected this fall or winter, try a few drifts in the area for ling. If the fishing gods smile your way, you at least won't go home empty-handed.

Ling aren't called "day-savers" without good reason.

OUTBOARD DOCTOR

Questions answered by
Doc Merc Omchrysler

Readers should address questions to: Outboard Doctor Box 126, W. Sayville, N.Y. 11796

I have a 1977 25 h.p. Evinrude that, after it is warmed up, will jump out of gear at mid to full throttle. At trolling speeds, it operates correctly. The gear case was disassembled where it was found that the clutch dog and forward gear had a very slight amount of wear. The shift linkage was cleaned and inspected and the shift cable was adjusted. Because of expense it was re-assembled and the problem still exists. Any suggestions? *R. Mullin*

The situation you describe is a relatively common one on the 18 h.p., 20 h.p. and 25 h.p. OMC (Evinrude-Johnson) products. But there is now help. OMC offers a kit that will convert your present gear case to the 1979-80 year types which uses a three-finger clutch dog. This kit includes a new front thrust bearing, forward and reverse gear, clutch dog shifter cradle, spaghetti seal and an O ring. The part number of the kit is 390974. List price is $70.65. However, there is a special tool required to install the kit properly. This will cost you $11.10 and the part number is 390880.

****

I have a 1968 Evinrude 9.6 h.p. outboard. It starts easy, but keeps stopping while running, always at different intervals. It may run for five minutes and stop; then twenty-five minutes or even an hour. I put in new plugs and last year had a tuneup plus a rebuilt pump. Would you please suggest what I may try now. A. Odsen

We would assume your problem is in the fuel system. We gather from your letter that you replaced the fuel pump and that spark is not a problem. The first thing to check would be your fuel tank. Check very carefully all the hose connections, making certain they are tight and especially that the little 'O' rings are seated properly. If they should be nicked or cut, they could allow air to be sucked in and cut your fuel supply. Next, check the tank itself. Be sure the cap vent hole is not partially clogged. Is the tank clean? No large pieces of dirt that could move on and off the fuel pick-up? Check all hose connections on the motor itself; see that there are no sharp bends or kinks and that all are tight. If nothing turns up in your checks, the next time the engine appears ready to stall, pull out your choke slightly to see if this helps keep it running. If it does, then most likely your new pump is defective, or the diaphram is pin-holed, or you may have a clogged jet in the carburetor.

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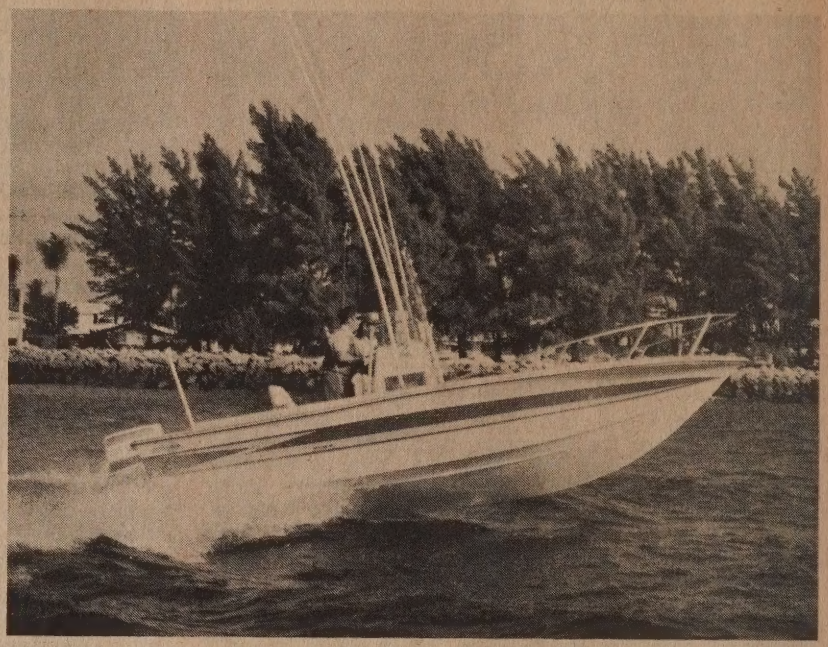
My 25 Evinrude, 1975, pumps water



real good but still runs very hot. I had it tuned last spring and it starts right up, but sometimes it seems like it is almost frozen when I go to start it. The first time I pull the cord after it has sat for awhile it is very hard, then the second pull comes easy. I know it is running hot because I burned my hand when I touched the back by the spark plugs, but like I say, the water pumps out good. *A. Positrone*

Your problem sounds serious. Water coming out of the discharge does not guarantee that the power head is getting sufficient water. There are several possibilities involved, each requiring substantial checking. 1. Is the engine stiff cranking because the pistons are seizing in the cylinders? The power head must be dismantled and a visual inspection of pistons and cylinder liners made. 2. Does the tightness come from water being sucked into the engine after it cools down, causing rust to form on vital parts? Again, a visual inspection is necessary. 3. When running, is the engine exceptionally noisy? Visual inspection for bad bearings is re-required. As for spark plugs getting hot, this is normal, although not hot enough to raise a blister unless you hang on to them for a bit. Your best bet is to get to a reputable dealer and have your engine carefully checked.

****

Is it true that gasoline, mixed 6 gal. gas/1 pint oil, left over from fall fishing should not be used in an outboard (15 h.p. Johnson, 1977) in the spring—standing about six months—because the mixture will foul the spark plugs? Several of my fishing buddies have given me this advice: "after several months this gas-oil mixture develops a varnish-like characteristics." Until now, I've always given my left-over gas to my car mechanic. *R. Herschler.*

We doubt very much that gasoline will spoil in six months time even when mixed with oil. The two-cycle (TWC) water-cooled oils used in today's outboards are very compatible with gasoline and certainly do not shorten the storage time of the fuel. A good rule of thumb would be to take a whiff of your old fuel before using it. It should smell like gasoline. You will know deteriorated gas; it will have the odor of paint thinner or turpentine. The smartest thing to do is to add "Gasoline Stabilizer." This is a product designed to prevent your fuel additives from separating. You will find it at most outboard shops. The directions for use are right on the can. With today's fuel prices, the stabilizer is an excellent buy. Another way of looking at it is to compare the price of a tank of fuel to that of a pair of spark plugs.

****

Tip to Readers Of Outboard Doc

If you are in a hurry for a reply to questions sent in to the Outboard Doctor, please enclose a self-addressed envelope along with your request for information.

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The following fifteen species are those that are eligible for *Skillful Angling Awards, Sport Fishing World Series* and the *I.G.F.A. World Record Contest:*

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Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
FLOUNDER	2
BLACKFISH	5
COD	30
PORGY	3
SEABASS	3

—INSHORE GAME FISH—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
STRIPED BASS	30
BLUEFISH	15
WEAKFISH	10
POLLACK	20
FLUKE	6

—OFFSHORE BIG GAME—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
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BLUE SHARK	150
MAKO SHARK	200
WHITE MARLIN	65
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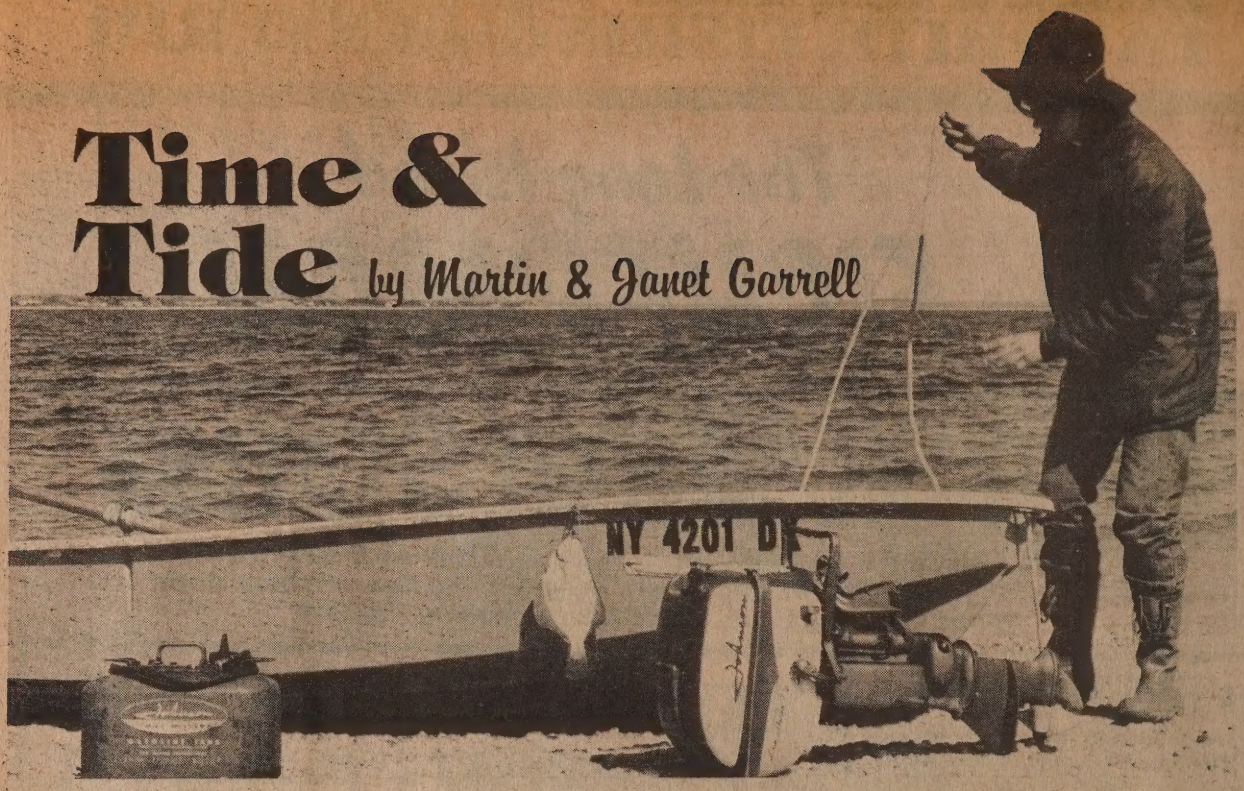
Time & Tide

by Martin & Janet Garrell



One lone flounder was the day's catch when we hit the wrong tide off of Cedar Beach on Southold Bay.

We couldn't really blame our friend from back West for being testy. He simply didn't want to cut his Saturday night party short, and in truth, we felt exactly the same about knocking two hours off our much needed night's sleep. We consulted the tide tables carefully for the Nth time, phoned him once more, and managed to persuade him that the sacrifice would probably be worthwhile. Then we offered a prayer to the fishing gods and turned in...

Twelve hours later at 7AM and right on schedule, the water went slack high at Horton's Point. We had our clam baits and chum pot in position, and sure enough, the sea porgies began to fly over the gunwales! By 7:30, we had enough silver dollars in the fish box to satisfy us; the tide had begun to ebb, and we broke out the fluke rigs. Using a fine touch and sharp hooks, our friend put away his fourth keeper fluke off McCabe's within an hour's time. By 9AM a northwesterly wind was rising, and it was time to pick the boat up. Tired as we were, the effort had paid off.

Even though it seems straightforward for North Fork residents like ourselves to repay the sportsmen's I.O.U.'s we owe to good friends with fishing trips, it seldom works out so well. You ask one buddy who hates early mornings, another who hates to miss his supper, and after multiple refusals, you finally forget all about preferred time and tide and decide to go at some civilized hour. The result is predictable—a boat ride and a skimpy catch. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any substitute for being in the right place at the right time.

On our home grounds out East, there are two generally correct rules for best fishing times. The first is to catch the periods just before and just after slack water wherever tides run swiftly. The second is to work incoming water on the Peconic Bays and outgoing water on Long Island Sound in those areas where gentle tidal flows prevail. Even though every species has its peculiarities and even though seasonal exceptions to these rules exist, they still seem to hold quite well.

Sometimes the active feeding periods around slack water are terribly short. In the Brickyard of Southold Bay, just east of the Port of Egypt Marina, for example, the half hour before high water is critical for summer weakfish and bluefish. Get a diamond jig down to the bottom in the deep hole just west of the rips during the magic half hour, and hook-ups follow. Once the tide begins to run out, however, the action often ceases just as if a switch has been thrown. Fortunately, fall blackfish action within the cove allows a little more of a margin. The angler who finds the little pieces of structure that hold tautog has a few hours to fool around, perhaps because the tidal flow slows near the Southold shore.

Orient Lighthouse on the edge of Plum Gut is another spot where timing is essential. Late summer and fall blackfish love the spot, and every season some of the biggest blacks on Long Island are taken from the shoal that drops off just north of the Light. But the tide there runs like a mill race, and we've always felt pressed for time, trying to hit the few minutes around slack water so that we could hold bottom. Perhaps we could increase our fishing time to an hour if we'd give in and switch to sash-weights of a half pound or more; unfortunately, we get discouraged if we have to go beyond six in that maelstrom, our overloaded rods just don't telegraph the raps very well, and crab chunks whirl like dervishes, tangling lines and spooking fish. So, when the tide at the Light really begins to rip, we usually haul anchor, and head up the Sound toward Mulford Point where the flow is slower.

A change of seasons can fool an angler completely about tides. Last November just before thanksgiving, there were reports of outstanding catches of big flounder made by boats, drifting off Petty's Bight near Orient. We packed our assorted worms, mussels, and clams, and planned our arrival just before full high tide in order to have several hours of outgoing water to fill the boat with fat, fall flatfish. No sooner had we started our first drift when a pound-and-a-half, fourteen inch flounder sucked in a worm for an auspicious start. The wind was gentle, the air surprisingly comfortable for the late season, and the fishbox was about to be filled—so we thought. We confidently took another

drift, then another. The tide turned and began to flow out, and there were no more nibbles. A big zip! Puzzled, we asked two gentlemen in a small skiff, drifting nearby, how they had fared, and they displayed some fifteen gorgeous flounder. They had taken the fish on incoming water, they said, and now it was time to pack up and put the boat on the beach! Because the inshore water had cooled rapidly during the late fall, the flounder were not inclined to feed on outgoing, as they did in the spring. The eastern body of the Sound was still relatively warm, however, and this gave the flatties' appetites a boost when incoming water raised the temperature slightly on the shoals. Having missed the tidal turn, we had supper that night by candlelight, splitting a whole stuffed, baked flounder between us. Our freezer never did get stuffed with Sound flounder, for a howling nor'easter came in the following week and sent all the big blackbacks scurrying for their wintering grounds offshore.

Early spring flounder anglers and early summer fluke fishermen find the opposite conditions. Howie Carroll, skipper of the **Jigger III** from Montauk, described a couple of frustrating July fluke trips in 1980 when outgoing water in the rips produced great action, but incoming water turned off the fishing completely. Offshore ocean water was evidently too cold for the likes of summer flounder, and as soon as it began to flow in their direction, their customary gluttony turned to indigestion. Although a water thermometer might have registered only a few tenths of a degree difference in fluke alley, the critters were remarkably sensitive!

There are times when winds or unusual water conditions make it impossible to fish the desirable tides, despite the best planning and calculations. Nothing is quite as exasperating as being in what you think is the right place at the right time and being foiled by some quirk. Afternoon southwesterlies can turn the Peconic Bays into a dangerous area for small boats, even on the hottest of summer days and even during the best of the summer weakfish run. And, if a frontal system moves across Long Island at any time, summer, fall or spring, count on a northwesterly blow to put the kibosh on Sound fishing for twelve to forty-eight hours afterwards. Hence, it's always wise to plan Peconic trips not only for incoming water, but also for mornings, and to get in one's licks on the Sound before any fronts arrive, even if it means pushing a trip ahead by a day or two.

Of course, a period of strong winds or a lot of boating activity can put a crimp in the best fishing plans. It's a well known fact that weakfish and bass and bluefish aren't especially fond of powerboat traffic under most circumstances, and it's also a fact of life that heavy weed lines and effective presentation of bait just don't go together. Just try to fish a tidal creek or a shallow beach after a period of either man-made or nature-caused turbulence. Even if the tide is the preferred one, once the water begins to move, chances are that there will be enough garbage festooning all rigs to kill any decent fishing. Moving water, particularly outgoing, and shallow inlets are often a poor combination on busy weekends for these reasons.

This angler displays a brace of large blackfish taken from the area off Orient Light. Best action here is around the turn of tide.

No piece on tides and timing would be complete without making the distinction between the time when the tide turns and the time when the tidal current reverses in a given area. Northeast of Jessup's Neck lies a productive flounder spot known as Cedar Beach. When we first began fishing in that location, we aimed for high water and were constantly puzzled by a current that seemed to be moving the wrong way. Our fishing results, mediocre as they were, showed it. We finally realized that the offset between Southold Bay high water and the reversal of the current off Cedar Beach was anywhere between one and two hours, depending on the season. Once we took advantage of that discovery, the results of our mussel chumming there improved considerably.

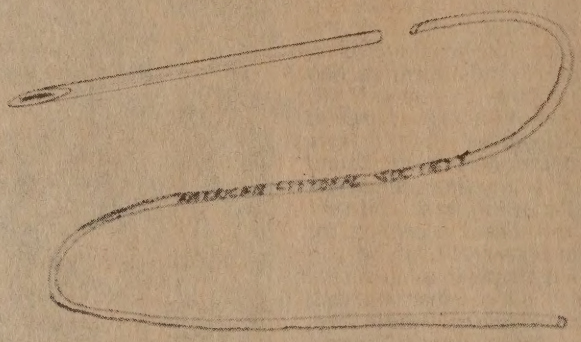
Only experience can tell an angler what time and tide to aim for in any given area. But no amount of experience can cope with the frontal system that wasn't on the map the night before or the wind that rises while you are on your way to the grounds. Do you buck the elements anyway, search for different water, or bring the boat back to the dock and head for a Diner? The person who has the right answer in such situations is indeed extremely wise or just plain lucky!

THE TAGGING EXPERIENCE

by George P. Cardel

Have you ever stalked down to the shore where thundering waves collapse rhythmically upon the sandy beaches and noticed matter of every variety being hurled to land? Pearl-walled shells, gnarled roots, aged driftwood of abstract shapes and shredded pieces of algae are tossed atop the sand away from the receding waves. One silently wonders about the many miles that these natural items had floated or were swept by tidal action. Having seen nature's array of charms, one also perceives the human artifacts. Objects and debris of every nature are to be found scattered above the tide mark. On occasion, one witnesses the remainders or clues from a drama at sea. A shabby life-jacket or other boat provisions might be spotted ashore. Upon these discoveries, the imagination attempts to recreate the human events of a capsized vessel or an ocean storm. One also tries to account for the distances and interpret the paths these objects took to run aground in time.

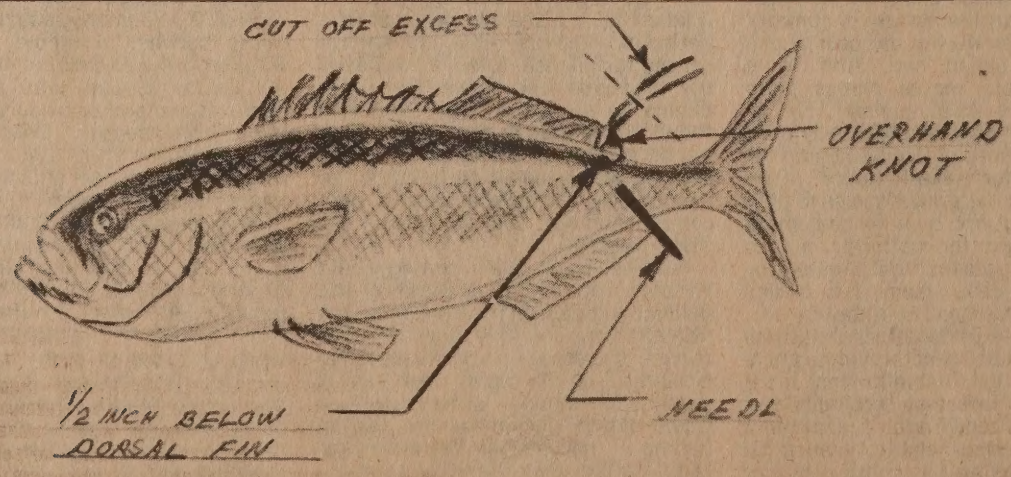
The sea also has another kind of treasure to be discovered and opened. The experience of capturing and releasing tagged fish combines together these same elements along with the disciplines of scientific research. What unfolds is a natural story of the finned creatures which roam and survive the waters of the coast. Migration, breeding, feeding and wintering are all key patterns of behavior in knowing and understanding the yearly life-cycle of our friends of the sea. These very patterns enable us to have a better insight into such difficult to comprehend matters as: population densities for species; important feeding areas for fish; key breeding locations for species; relative abundances or scarcities of species in particular coastal locations, and the actual migratory routes or boundaries of travel for a species or school of fish.



NEEDLE & TAG COMBINATION

Of course, this discovery of nature's patterns has a starting point. The start of this discovery begins with you and me. Fish tagging enables participation in information gathering studies that shed light into these biological patterns and phenomena. By releasing and recapturing tagged fish, the information generated enables researchers to better understand and thus protect our maritime species.

But what does a fish-tagging program actually involve? Well, when you decide to go off to your favorite hot corner in a bay or hover about a great piece of offshore bottom, be prepared and take a complete tagging kit along with you. When you hang into one of your favorite species like flounder, fluke, mackerel, bass, bluefish or weakfish, for instance, don't just keep every single one that bites your offering of food. Rather, participate in the experience of tagging and releasing of fish! It is wise to apply tags only to those fish which have not been severely hurt and have not been hooked deep in the throat. A tag is, in



TAGGING PROCESS

most cases, very similar to thin insulation for wire with a mailing address and an identification number displayed laterally down the length of this tube. This tag is to be attached to a needle which should puncture the meat of the fish no more than one-half inch beneath the back dorsal fin. With the needle and spaghetti-like tag passing through this hole, remove the needle from the tag and tie a double-overhand knot with both ends to prevent tag release. Keep the knot short to the fish's body and cut off the excessive tube length which remains past the knot. Record the information about your fish, such as: species, length, weight, location caught, and date of capture. Finally, release the fish gently back to the water. If the fish has been out of water for several minutes, he may require some assistance upon returning to his aquatic habitat. If water is forced past the gills of the fish by holding him forward of the tail and oscillating him back and forth several times through the water, resuscitation is sure to occur. Now, he will be ready to return to his home. Don't forget about trying to minimize the amount of time in attaching the tag. Gentle handling with a wet rag helps to ensure a smaller amount of scale removal. Also, particular care and attention should be given to hook removal to assure no severe tissue damage to the fish. I've often compared fish tagging and release with throwing a note in a bottle overboard. One really never knows just where your fish will show up again or where he will stay in the coming days, or years for that matter. Before the species is recaptured, the interim time is often spent with one's imagination filling in the gaps of the journey that your fish will undertake to survive the yearly cycle.

One organization that invites tagging participation in our coastal area is The American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, New Jersey 07732. For $3.50, one can obtain a kit which includes ten tags, a needle and tagging instructions. When a recapture of your fish is made, information is forwarded by mail to you concerning the location, who recaptured him, and on what date. Although the recapture rate is small, you are fairly certain of one if you tag at least twenty fish per season. News of all recaptured species is published in the Society's Quarterly Publication, "The Underwater Naturalist."

Anticipation, discovery, and understanding all combine together when you participate in the fish-tagging experience. This seems like such a natural extension of the sport of fishing itself. Both personal satisfaction and excitement are joined with the knowledge that a better understanding of our sea-swimming species will be realized. Tagging along with other fishermen helps to ensure fish protection as well as continued sport fishing for our present and future generations.

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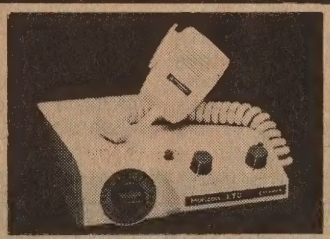

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Fall Flatties In MORICHES BAY

by Gerald Hahn

Fishing for flounder in the fall is not as easy as fishing for them in the spring. Some anglers think that flounder, after being subjected to so many baited offerings throughout the season, are wiser by the fall. But the truth is that the flatfish schools are more scattered now than in the spring. As an example, in Moriches Bay, which is one of the best flounder bays on the South Shore, the majority of spring flounder are first caught in the east end, near the canals and Westhampton Bridges. At this time, the schools are so concentrated that anglers, anchoring up any place in the vicinity, load up with flounder in no time at all. In the fall, however, small schools range over a wide area; and therefore, the fishing is slower. Moreover, although flounder feed actively in the fall—laying in stock before they retire for the winter—they are much fatter now, and therefore, finicky. Not that spring flounder, though very thin and hungry, are ready to jump into your boat; their moodiness is attributed to cold water. Once the temperature rises in the spring, so do the flounders' appetites. But this is not the case with fall flounder: when they are in the mood, they will surely pounce on a bait with greater enthusiasm than in the spring. The problem is to find them—and then, to tempt them. Still, a smaller catch now is offset by greater size; every fall flounder you take is worth two in the spring—if you care to measure the difference in thickness.

In the shallow waters of Moriches Bay, a light six foot spinning rod, a small matching reel, and eight pound test, are adequate, since sinkers rarely exceed an ounce. In fact, this is an excellent bay to fish with ultra-light tackle or freshwater gear. Here, as elsewhere, a tandem rig is favored, which consists of two Chestertown hooks, #10 to #12, on twelve inch leaders of twenty pound test—the end one snell tied to the middle of the other. Number one Beak or Claw hooks, or even freshwater hooks, work just as well. A snap swivel is tied to the end of the fishing line with an improved clinch knot, and both the sinker (bank style) and the hooks are connected to it. Some fishermen increase the rig's visibility by painting the sinker fluorescent red or yellow. In some parts of the bay, where the current is slow, some fishermen use split-shot or small rubber core sinkers on the line, and dispense with the heavier bank sinker.

In Moriches Bay, as in most South Shore bays, worms are the most effective baits: bloodworms, sandworms, or earthworms. Depending on its size, the worm should be cut into two or three pieces, enough to thread one on the hook to the eye and a little extra below the point for a teaser. Other baits to consider are clams and mussels, both of which I find less effective here than in other places.

These Moriches Bay flatties will provide a tasty meal some cold winter evening. Light spinning tackle is ideal in the shallows of this South Shore bay.

Even so, many fishermen swear by these baits, especially clams dyed with red or yellow food coloring (to resemble worms). The clam is cut into a thin strip, and then is impaled and twisted several times on the hook, once again allowing a trace to dangle below. Although most fishermen agree that mussels are more effective in the spring than in the fall; nonetheless, some anglers reason that since fall flounder are attracted to mussel chum, they will surely relish baited mussels. Perhaps this bait is underrated because it is more difficult than the other baits to keep on a hook; the method is similar to baiting with clams. Sometimes, the best offering is a combination of two baits, such as a clam and a worm, or a whole kernel of corn and a worm. Because fall flounder behave erratically, it is advisable to bring along several kinds of baits and to try various combinations.

A good supply of chum is in order, as well: mussels or clams mixed with corn, catfood, or rice. Crushed and scattered from the up-current side of the boat or lowered in a chum pot to the bottom near baited rigs, chum can make the difference between a poor and a great catch. Flounder have a keen sense of sight, taste, and smell, and any glistening particles suspended just off the bottom, will catch their attention. This explains why many fishermen also drag the anchor through the mud or bounce the sinker to disturb the bottom. Likewise, the device of pounding the bottom with a weight attached to a long handle, works particularly well at Moriches, since the deep areas generally are no more than six feet.

Be prepared, then, to make a number of dropoffs for about twenty minutes each, and if nothing happens within the prescribed time, to move a few feet or to the next buoy. Many days, a few fish are picked up at each locale, and by the end, a decent catch is obtained. But if you are fortunate enough to locate a hotspot for the day, you will be bailing flounder from 3/4 lbs. to more than 1½ lbs. non-stop, as my son and I did, when we caught fifty flounder within an hour-and-a-half at a single spot. Near the end of that memorable encounter, we were searching frantically for the shredded remains of worms, and still caught double-headers!

That was a fine spot, but Moriches Bay extends for almost fourteen miles from the Smith Point Bridge to the third Westhampton Bridge (see map), and it would take more than two hours to make a straight run with a 6 h.p. motor and a small rental skiff. Good flounder spots are located in each sector of the bay, and the main channel buoys are easy to follow, for they become progressively greater as you head east. The only buoys that are marked differently (usually low numbers) are in the coves or near the inlet.

In the west end of Moriches Bay, also known as Narrows Bay, because in places it is less than one-half mile from north to south, anchoring north of any buoy—between #16 and #25—will put you over likely flounder spots. Generally throughout the bay, the water is deeper on the mainland side (north) than on the south side off Fire Island or Westhampton Beach. Moreover, it is illegal to anchor in the channel. Some deep holes here, are located near buoy 17 and s/w of buoy 23. The entrance to Pattersquash Creek is worth a try, as well.

In the wider central part of the bay, opposite Moriches Inlet, some excellent spots are at the entrance to the Forge River and the deep area that extends very close to the North Shore between buoys 26 and 27. The entrance to the Terrell River and the deep hole southeast of buoy 29 are good dropoffs as well. So are the coves and points northeast of the inlet near the Coast Guard Station: Tuthill Cove, Hart Cove, Seatuck Cove, and Haven Point among them. The buoys numbered in the thirties are always worth a try. There are two entrances to Moriches Inlet around a nameless island. The west cut is narrow, but deeper than six feet; the east cut reaches depths of twenty feet. The cuts and the area known as the Elbow, just northeast of the east cut are popular fluke haunts in the summer, but large flounders hole up here at times also.

Heading east, the deep water northeast of buoy 42 is excellent, as is the area between buoys 43, 44 and the Speonk River. Sometimes flounder are taken on the south side of these buoys, as well. Once you reach the buoys numbered in the fifties, the bay narrows considerably, and a particularly fertile area of mud bottom, around the Westhampton bridges and the Quogue and Quantick Canals south of Quantuck Bay, where the earliest spring flounder stir, is certainly worth exploring in the fall, especially near the end of the season. Just as spring flounder start the season, fall flounder end it in this area.

Although may flounder are caught around a tidal change, on a good day they may be taken on any running tide. Select a calm day for this kind of fishing because Moriches Bay, being shallower than most, is highly susceptible to storms and high winds. Vegetation is torn loose and fishing is impossible. Other than this, you can fish, rain or shine, hot or cold, from late-September to Thanksgiving, when most rental stations close.

The number of rental stations along Moriches Bay may be more than those in Great South Bay. Check the ads in The Fisherman and decide which part of the bay you want to explore. Use the accompanying map, if the station does not provide one (many do), and ask the owner to pinpoint current hotspots. Then, lay in your stock of fall flounder before both you and the fish retire for the winter.

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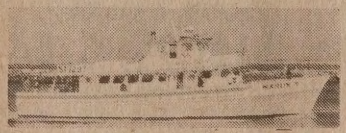

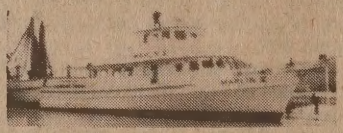

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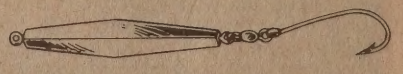

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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** says that the bluefishing is red hot on both day and night trips fishing Cartwright. Twenty four fares on Sunday had over 600 blues, all 15 lbs. and up. Three fish went over 22 lbs. This was on bait and diamond jigs on Sunday aboard the **Marlin V**. The **Marlin IV** has been doing a job on jumbo porgies at Fishers Island and Block Island everyday. Catches are running from 70 to 90 porgies a man on decent days. Most fish are in the 2 to 3 lb. range. An average porgy fisherman can manage 65 fish with usually not sweat. Some big sea bass and blacks are mixed in. The **Marlin V** is now diamond jigging stripers and blues as the fall progresses. See ad for details.

Capt John Sweetman of the charterboat **Ebb Tide** on Sunday wire lined 3 striped bass in the 20 to 30 lb. class on the afternoon trip, along with a load of bluefish working off the Lighthouse on the south side.

Capt Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** says that the cod fishing at Coxes Ledge slowed on Saturday but was good again on Sunday. No doggies yet on the Ledge or at Cartwright. The cod are running 8 to 12 lbs. Blues and porgies are mixed in. The night bluefish trips slowed a bit Friday and Saturday nights, but the catches were very good during the day. There have been good striper catches on the morning and afternoon trips run by the charter fleet, so bass are definitely around to be had. Paul says the bottom is paved with porgies and the **Viking Star** has been doing a job at Block Island with sea bass and blacks mixed in. The striped bass October full moon trips to be held soon are ready to get under way. The boat's live bank tanks are loaded with 300 lbs. of live eels, to give all fares a good shot at landing a lunker striper. See ad for details.

West Lake Fishing Lodge called to say that Mary and John Domonicci on the boat Tessa boated 69 blues, 2 stripers weighing 12 and 38 lbs., two 12 lb. weakfish, 5 albies from 5 to 12 lbs. and 40 flounder up to 2 lbs. at Shagwong. Fred Faro on his boat Clean Sweep had 100 lbs. of bluefish, a 33 lb. striper, an 8 lb. striper and a 12 lb. weak. On the rod was Hans

Charlie Nappi with a brace of south side doormats taken back in September. Photo courtesy of Star Island Yacht Club.

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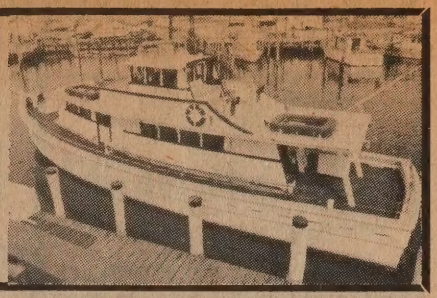

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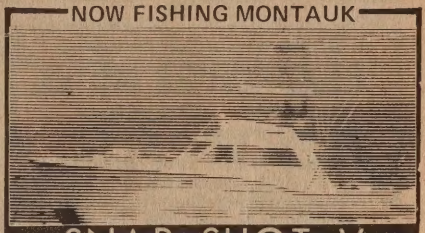

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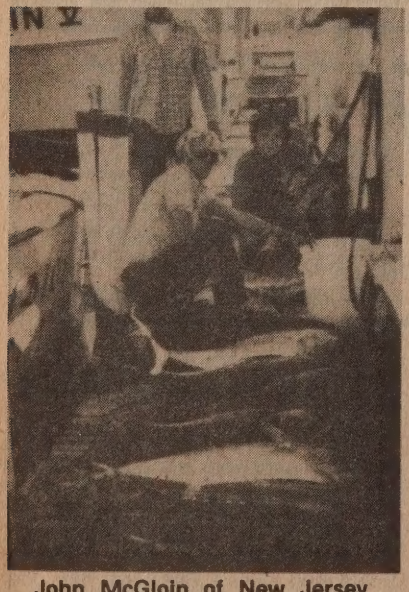
Hankel of Lindenhurst. That was Saturday at Great Eastern. Capt Gary Kiefer on the charter boat **Barracuda** says the bass are biting well. On Sunday morning Gary had a 35 lb. striper along with 50 blues and 12



John McGloin of New Jersey with the mate of the Montauk charter boat "Adios" and 20 tuna ranging from 40-100 lbs.

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bonito fishing inshore and also at Cartwright. Bruce Kiefer on his boat Feeling Free got 5 stripers from 20 to 35 lbs. Sunday afternoon. Bruce says the full moon should be the best in years as far as bass fishing is concerned. Capt Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** along with Mikes Keeyes boated a 35 lb. striper on Saturday. On Sunday they had a 30 and a 40 pounder. The party fishing the boat both days was Mr. & Mrs. Conover.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** called to say that bass fishing Sunday was very good. A 42½ lb. striped bass was hooked and landed by Ed Walsh of New City. This fish was taken on a trolled tube. Most boats have bass. Henry Mach had over 80 gorilla blues at Cartwright on a half-day trip.

Charterboat **Julie III** with Capt Ron and party led by Gus Delgatto on Sunday caught over 300 lbs. of porgies and a dozen big sea bass on the south side.

Charter boat **King Wayne** called to say that his parties fished Cartwright all week and loaded up every trip with 12 to 18 lb. bluefish. A cod or two was also taken on each trip. Saturday and Sunday's afternoon trips were very good at Cartwright with herring and with diamond jigs. Sunday's trip for Leon Muller of Pittsburgh, and

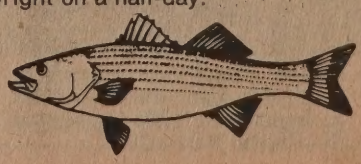
Robert Rojas, on a recent trip aboard the "Viking Starship," topped off a big catch of cod with these two 30 lbers. Fishing was done at Coxes Ledge.

friend, loaded up with a few bass, a mess of blues and a scattering of weaks, south of the point, all on umbrellas. The skipper says he has only a few bass and cod dates left open this season.

Capt Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** says that starting Thursday October 23rd, the boat will be on a 6 a.m. daily schedule sailing open boat striped bass. Bud reminds us of his first day last year when customers hauled in 47 bass, many of which were in the 20 to 30 lb. class. The boats 50½ lb. striper still stands as the worlds record striper caught from a party boat. This will continue to be jig fishing. Jigs with green tails have been working best and they will be available on the boat.

Star Island Yacht Club tells of a very good showing of striped bass this weekend. Keith Bronsa on his boat Sea Spray, got a 32 lb. striper. Cartwright is producing right up to form on blues. No sign of doggies as yet. Small blues still around the rips and biting well. Burt Rochfield on his boat Rocky II on Sunday scored nicely with weaks and a lot of blues on the south side. Harry Ogden on his boat Wee-Mite IV had a good catch of weaks on the south side also. Porgies are still strong.

Captain Phil Lewis of the **Adios** reports that bass fishing on Sunday was very good. A 42½ lb. bass was brought in by Ed Walsh of New City. These fish were caught trolling tubes. Most boats had bass. Henry Mack had over 80 gorilla blues off Cartwright on a half-day.



SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKS

SHINNECOCK

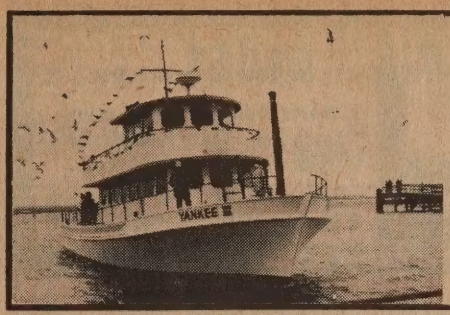
Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** said that boatmen have been racking up some good flounder scores in Shinnecock Bay at the Greenlawns and Heady Creek. Both worms and clams have been taking the fish. The southwest corner of Shelter Island continues to provide good blackfish and porgy action, with clams working best on the porgies and crabs taking the blacks.

The **Capt Clark II** tells of good to excellent blackfishing this past weekend in Peconic Bay on Saturday despite the strong winds. Fares had full pails of blacks in the 2 to 6 lb. class with a few larger blacks mixed in. Howard Silverman and wife managed 37 blacks including the 7½ lb. pool winner. Sunday Bill Sosnicki boated 19 good sized blacks incuding an 8½ lb. pool fish. During the week the **Capt Clark** fished offshore ocean wrecks everyday with excellent results. Loads of sea bass, blacks and humpback porgies were caught. The boat will be fishing either the Peconi Bay wrecks or the ocean wrecks daily depending on wind and tide conditions. Blackfishing should improve even more as the water cools and should peak in the next week or two.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** said that the big attraction in the area continues to be the flounder. Big catches of the flatties along with lots of crabs at Seatuck Cove, although buoys 42, 43, and 44 have been producing well also. Blues and bass have been trolled on the inlet bars in recent days.

★CAPTREE★



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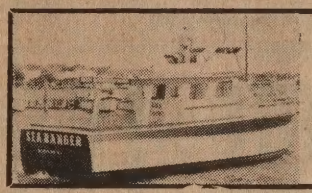

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Dave Roys with a fine mixed bag of 30 flounder, 18 sea bass and 22 porgies taken at buoy 44 on worms and clam. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

MASTIC BEACH

Stirz's Fishing Station tells of lots and lots of flounders being caught from buoy 23 to the bridge, fish up to 1½ lbs. Worms and plenty of chum on the ebb is the ticket. Crabs are from 17 to the bridge on rings and traps. Lots of big blues at the inlet from 8 to 12 lbs. being fished deep with umbrellas and wire line.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sports Center** reported blackfishing continued very good in the area. Some real good catches have been made at the Coast Guard Station as well as at the Kismet Reef. Worms, clams and crabs have been taking fish from 1½ to 5 lbs. with the best action around the changes of the tide. Blues being trolled at the inlet on umbrella rigs and trolled and jigged anywhere from 30-80 ft. of water outside.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** checked in a 10 lb. 14 oz. weak for Larry Wonoski last week. Larry took the fish near the construction dock. Carl looked over a fine catch of blackfish and sea bass made in the bay by a group of four Bay Shore

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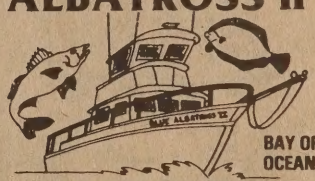

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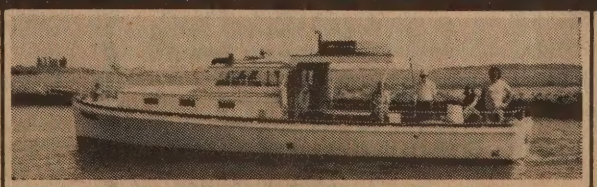

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FLOUNDER
SEABASS
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boatmen. Fiddlers and greens have been taking blacks at the Kismet Reef and also on the new Oak Beach reef. For big sea bass, Carl suggested trying the Fire Island reef where a few big porgies are mixed in also. Some school bass and blues being trolled in the inlet on red and white umbrella rigs, with big blues on diamond jigs from Cherry Grove out to the Oregon wreck. Crabs still in good supply at local docks.

CAPTREE

The **Capt Bob Joseph** reports that Saturday was very rough on the water. Twelve passengers had roughly 60 blues. Sunday's fishing was fantastic. Blues moved closer to Captree into an area about 2 miles south of the San Diego wreck. Catches ranged from 12 to over 40 big blues per man. Fish ran 5 to 17 lbs. Ten yr. old Arthur Pagano of Holbrook had 29 fish. The pool was taken by Edward Zelardi of Seaford, a 16¾ lb. gorrilla. Friday's day and night trip had good results. There will be a night trip on Friday and Saturday nights for the rest of the bluefishing season. During the day the boat will be carring clams on board just in case the blues slow down.

Eddie Muniz, John Alversa, and Fred Schlagel with 188 flounder caught at buoy 48 in Moriches Bay. The trio left from Hi-Way Fishing Station.

Capt Joe Perozzi on the **Jib VI** reports that his blackfishing trips sailing 8 a.m. daily have been consistently good on fiddlers and clam bait. Fish are running from 1 to 8 lbs. and Joe is fishing bay wrecks and the Kismit reef. Flounder fishing is improving, with weather permitting but still has tended to be spotty this past week. Best catches are being made in the channel.

Capt Dan Juettner on the **Capt Joseph II** reports that the blackfish and sea bass are still cooperating very nicely. High hook for the weekend was Joel Collins with 88 blacks, sea bass, and blues mixed. Offshore bluefishing remains strong.

The **Capt Scotty** called to tell of a super slaughter on Sunday with the Capt himself accounting for 70 to 80 bluefish. Fish range from 2 to 12 pounders and on Sunday in one 2½ hr. drift it was non stop pandomonium. This was jig fishing SW of Patchogue and they started for the dock 12:30 p.m. with everyone beat to the feet. Catches were very good during the week too to the tune of 20 to 40 blues as an average catch. On one day catches were 8 to 10 fish a man. Saturday they fished on a wreck and had all 10 to 16 lb. gorrillagators. The seas were not bad Sunday considering Saturday's wind.

Captain Rod Westerlind of the **Captain Rod** said that Captain George Bartenback has been working the State Channel for flounder. The skipper described Sunday's action as pretty decent but overall described the flatfishing as picky. The fish have been slow moving into the back bay due to the mild weather, but everyone is looking forward to a good late season run.

Captain Richie Abrams who runs the good ship **Captain Whitaker** has been providing fares with very good blackfish action on some of the local bay wrecks. Fish have been averaging 1½ to 2 lbs., with a daily pool winner anywhere from 5 to 8 lbs. Fiddler crabs have been accounting for catches ranging anywhere from 10 to 40 fish per angler, depending on the individual's knack for hooking the tautogs.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported good flounder fishing in the State Channel on Sunday. He knew of several boatmen who managed 20 to 25 keepers out of numerous smaller fish. On Sunday, Ralph teamed with Artie and Dick of the shop found a huge school of blues and weaks in 85 ft. of water south of Cherry Grove. They called in the fleet and everyone loaded up with blues and weaks to 10 lbs. Blackfishing continues good at the Kismet Reef and on local bay wrecks for those using fiddlers and green crabs.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

SEAFORD

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** said that flounder action in the area has remained good, with worms and corn and mussel chum proving to be the best combination. George Brandt of New York City had a 2¼ lb. flounder over the weekend. Best action on the ebb tide has been the first Wantagh bridge, while on the flood, action switches over to the drains just south of the Four Corners. Blacks, sea bass and crabs are sprinkled among the flatfish, said John.

Lon Wanser reported from **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** that flounder are around in good numbers, although many of the flatties are on the small side. A few sea bass are mixed with them. Lon noted that the bigger flounder seem to come from Haunts Creek and the entrance to Zachs Bay. Good blackfishing at all the bridges and on any of the wrecks in the area on fiddlers and green crabs. Boatmen did well during the week with big bluefish in the inlet. Snagged bunker and trolled umbrella rigs took fish.

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station tells of plenty of good flounder being caught up to 2 lbs. between Squaw Island and Wanser's Cut, working that whole channel. The end of Massapequa Cove has been good also, incoming best. Blood worms and plenty of clam chum is the ticket. Nearly all fish are keepers. Lots of good size blackfish at the 2nd Wantagh on fiddlers, fish up to 3 lbs. along with some kingfish. Try Zacs Bay for flounders and porgies.

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John Herold, and Rudy and Robert Williams with a nice batch of flounder taken on worms near the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Photo courtesy of Long Beach Sports Marina.

Capt Brian of the open boat **Chinco** says that customers had catches of 15 to 25 flounders a man during the week. Friday saw the pool go to Walter Schmidt with a 2½ lb. weakfish. Two weaks were taken that day at the 3rd Wantagh. On Friday a 2¼ lb. flounder took the pool for Jerry Genzale of Massapequa.

BELLMORE

The singing dog at **Merrick Tackle** reports that flounders were caught on the weekend but catches were better during the week. The deep holes with colder water are producing best such as areas of Swift Creek and Merrick Bay. The bent pole was productive during the week also. Chumming is a must. Mostly short stripers are being plugged in the state channel on poppers and at the Wantagh bridge areas and at the black banks. A few keepers are mixed in.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of loads ¾ to 1 lb. flounder being taken through the weekend at Merrick Point, the Golf Course and Broad Creek with outgoing water best. Catches were better on the flats at high water. Worms are catching best. There are blackfish at the bridges on worms, clam and hard bait. Thursday and Friday saw super 2 to 4 lb. bluefishing from Short Beach to the end of the jetty on umbrellas and diamond jigs.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station tells of some bass caught on Sunday off the Lido Beach Hotel on tubes in 25' of water. Flounder fishing has been good in Baldwin Bay, at the Coast Guard Station, Swift Creek and at the Loop Bridge area, on clams and worms with plenty of chum. Blackfish are also biting nicely at the Loop Bridge on worm, clam or crab.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

The **Capt Bill** reports that Sunday morning's half-day trip saw very good catches of blacks up to 3 lbs. On Saturday's half-day trip, Westbury regular Roosevelt Rogers, had 20 blacks plus a 3 lb. pool fish, all on fiddlers. On Friday Massapequa angler Dennis Murphy bagged 15 flounder and 10 blackfish. Most of the blackfishing is being done at the

Dick Priest, Rick DiBartolo, and Dave Goldberg put away 102 big blues, bonito, and weaks on a recent trip aboard the Atlantic Beach charter boat "Kim." S&G umbrella rigs took the fish.

Meadowbrook Bridge. Friday saw a bonus catch of bluefish at buoy 5 in Sloop Channel. Marino Martinolich of Valley Stream ended the day with 20 flounders and 6 blackfish on Thursday

The **Capt Al** has been fishing Cholera all week on bait and scoring with solid catches of bluefish from 6 to 15 lbs. most days.

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** is now bottom fishing for sea bass, blacks, blues and porgies. Saturday's catch was good right up until noon when the strong came in force. Sunday's catch was good on these bottom dwellers and Richie says the fall mixed bag fishing is off to a good start. Catches during the week were good also. Blues to 10 lbs. have been caught, sea bass to 3 lbs. and blackfish to 5 lbs. An occasional big porgy is being jerked. All fishing is being done an hour or less from the dock on local wrecks.

Capt Dan of the charterboat **Nan Sea** called to say that Saturday's charter for Tom Devlin of Whitestone trolled off Lido in 50' of water, totaling 12 blues to 7 lbs. They then hit Swift Creek and did another 20 flounders before calling it a day, and a windy day at that. Sunday's charter for Phil DiBato of Lynbrook trolled a few fish off the beach and then boogied on out to Cholera and chummed 30 blues from 12 to 17 lbs. on light tackle.

The **Capt Gary** with a charter Saturday for Brooklyn Telephone Co. started out as a bluefish trip but due to bad weather had to fish local wrecks for some bottom dwellers. They had a good day nonetheless with mixed bags of porgies, flounder, sea bass, weaks and blackfish. Sunday they ran open boat for flounders. Edward Benhovic of the Bronx, had 14 mixed fish. Sara Taravella had 10 flounders.

The **Capt Lou** reports that flounder fishing throughout the week was very good. John DeRosa, Jerry LoCastro and Lou Buontempo all of Valley Stream, got 130 flounders between

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Mannie Rappaport of Long Beach with the 24 lb. striper he decked aboard the Sheepshead Bay open boat "Flamingo III."

them. Mike Fayer of Great Neck scored with 50 flatties and 15 blacks. This was the full days boat. High hooks on the full day trip were in the 50s and fares are catching lots of blacks and porgies at the bridges also.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** on Tuesday had blues up to 12½ lbs. at Cholera on butterfish and chum. The larger fish are hard on the bottom. Thursday, they sailed to an offshore wreck and had blues up to 14 lbs. on bait and on jigs. Live bergalls on the hook caught very well. They should be hooked behind the head and fished on the bottom followed by 3 to 5 turns of the reel handle and the rod should then be dead sticked, advises Capt Sy Karlin. Saturday and Sundays trips were for flounder both days. They fished the Coast Guard Station and other local hot spots and had flounders, sea bass, porgies and blacks for a good mixed bag. There are still a few open dates for December and January cod fish charters.

Capt Bill of the charterboat **Ivory Queen** has the boat set up now for fall and winter cod fishing. He says he will be sailing for cod most of the winter and has several good dates both weekday and weekend available.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station tells us that blackfishing has been very good at the Meadowbrook Bridge, the Long Beach Bridge and the Twreck, on fiddlers, Flounders improved this week especially in the flats. One customer had 37 flounders and another customer in a rented skiff had 32 flounders. Sea bass are still around, particularly at the bridges. Ralph Russo, Jimmy Ginbele and Charlie and Sue Sciara had 60 blackfish from 2 to 4 lbs. fishing the Twreck. Lots of small blues at the Inlet on tubes over the weekend.

Charterboat **Marie III** called to say that Saturday's charter fished Long Creek, Fundy Bay, Meadowbrook Bridge and a few other spots for flounders up to 1 lb. There were more keepers this week than last. Fair catches of blackfish up to 3 lbs. at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Best was at mid tide on the ebb. Long Creek was best for flounders on worm and clam. Sunday's charter worked Long Creek, the Coast Guard Station and Reynold's Channel for larger flounders to 1½ lbs. and some porgies at the Coast Guard Station. At the station they also had 6 snapper size weakfish which were returned to the water. The boat still has some open cod dates for December.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Bait and Tackle** reported super blackfishing at all the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. Flounder slowed down this past week, although fish are still being caught in fair numbers on worms and mussels. Some bass action at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on live eels and big plugs. Charlie noted that there have been large schools of bunker in the vicinity of the bridge in recent days.

LONG BEACH

Bernie Haag filed a report from the **Long Beach Sports Marina** and called the flounder fishing solid in Reynolds Channel particularly between the Lindell School and the railroad trestle. Kingfish and some small porgies are mixed with the flatties. Excellent blackfishing continues at the Atlantic Beach bridge. Stan and Annette Rozycki and their sons Stan, Jr. and Chris rented a center console Proline from the marina and returned with a tubful of blacks to 4½ lbs. While bluefishing in the surf last week provided action the likes of which hasn't been seen in years for young and old alike, see the surf report at the conclusion of the regular fishing reports for more details.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Skippy of **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** said that good flounder fishing continued in Hog Channel and on the Oyster beds this past week. Fiddler crabs and green crabs accounting for good scores of blackfish at all the bridges and wrecks. Plenty of blues being trolled and jigged along the local oceanfront, as well as at Cholera. Allen Radi of the Yago used chum to take a nice catch of blues to 14½ lbs. on Sunday at Cholera.

Reynold's Reef Fishing Station says there have been good catches of blacks and flounder around the Atlantic Beach Bridge on worms, clam and fiddlers. On Thursday aboard the boat Marlin, Mary Barnett and Tom Cralley boated a 177 lb. bluefin tuna in 17 minutes. Jerry Trussel on the boat Marlena got a mako of 215 lbs.

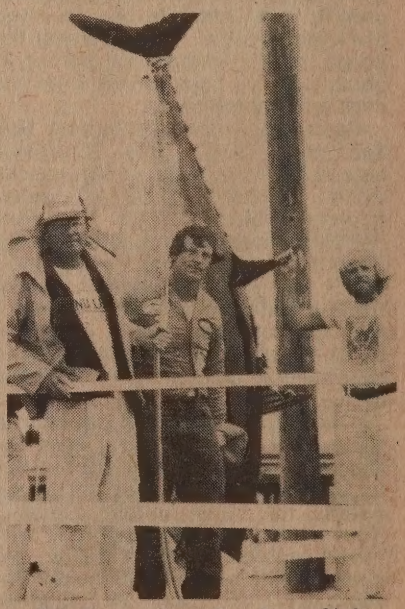
JAMAICA BAY

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** who keeps tabs on the local bridges, as well as the boat action in the area, reported that blackfishing continued good with clams and crabs both working well for the tautogs. Flounder fishing continues to improve as water temperatures begin to drop. The best bet for the flatties are worms.

Bob at **Seaman's Bait** tells of some small porgies around the Cross Bay Bridge area on worms but they are in the process of moving out. Small flounders are starting in the TSS area and will be building as the days go by. Big blues at the Radar Pier at Silver Hole on whole or chunk bunker. A few bass in the bay at the Cross Bay Bridge on worms and shrimp on the bottom.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Zephyr** has been doing a good job picking away at blackfish, porgies and a few sea bass fishing Seabright, the Jersey coast and local wrecks.



The Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club won the 36th annual U.S.A.T.T. with the 894 lb. bluefin pictured above. Captain Bob Wallace, left; Steve Wallace, center, and angler Greg Beacher combined their talent and muscle to subdue the giant.

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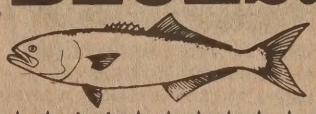

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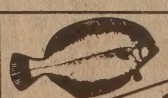

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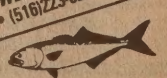

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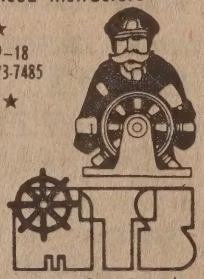

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Two to five lb. blackfish have been hitting green crabs, while clam bait is bringing in porgies averaging 3/4 lbs. and nice sized sea bass.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** reported excellent fishing for blacks and porgies fishing local wrecks between Ambrose and the Jersey coast. Friday was an excellent day for blackfishing with 2 to 8 lb. blacks jumping on green crab bait. On Saturday, fares took advantage of tremendous porgy fishing, fish from 1/2 to 1 lb. taking clam bait. Sunday's action was off from previous days but nice catches were taken on board.

Capt Tom of the **Elsie K III** reports that he has found the mother load of fall flounders on the bay side of Breezy Point. On Saturday Camillo Scotto bagged 63 keeper flounders. On Sunday, fares had very good flounder catches along with big blackfish up to 5 lbs. in the same area.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** said that boatmen have been taking blues in the 10 to 15 lb. class and weaks from 8 to 12 lbs. on bunker at sunrise near the entrance to Great Kills Harbor. Later in the day most of the action is centered off at buoy 14. This, too, on bunker. Blackfishing good at the bug lights and storm sewers, with fish running anywhere from 2 to 5 lbs. Flounder, blacks, porgies, eels and an occasional small striper at piers 8, 10, 12, and 17. School bass being taken on drifted worms near the VZ bridge and the 21 can.

PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt John of the charterboat **Blue Albatross** tells us that Saturday's charter for the Jackson Hgts. Anglers had a fair catch of blackfish off Plum Island, despite the wicked winds that blew. Running the boat on the Saturday trip was Capt. Gene Otto whose excellent boat handling enabled him to put the boat exactly where he wanted it, despite the wind and lumpy sea conditions. Sunday's charter was a mixed bag of flounder, blues and blacks for Joe Jernick and party. They fished Plum Island and the Race.

A.P. White Bait Shop called to tell us that Capt George Porter on the **Brand X** has been loading up on every trip with porgies (large) working off Fishers Island. Capt Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** is likewise doing very well on the big porgies but is now switching over to blackfish at his customers request. Art says that Sunday's bluefishing was excellent in the Race. Blackfishing at Plum Island and in Long Island Sound was also ver good on fiddlers and green crab. Flounder catches have been very respectable at Petty's Bight at Orient and also at the state park area on worms and clam. Surfcasters working the sound have been catching striped bass from Horton's Point to Orient Point. Blues are also being caught off the beach. This has been on chunk bunker. Flounders are a good item off East Marion on worms.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports good blackfishing at Mulford Point. Small whole green crabs are working best with catches of 8½ and 9 lb. fish not uncommon. One angler in a rented skiff boated 150 lbs. of blackfish on a weekday trip. Flounder are still being caught at Petty's Bight, though it was a little picky this week. Very good porgy catches at Petty's Bight and in front of the station on Sunday. Blues and bonito being caught in the Sound out in front of the station all week. These fish are on the surface just a few 100 ft. off the beach. Three ounce Hopkins are doing a good job on these fish. Blues are 2 to 5 lbs. and the bonito are in the 5 lb. range. Some stripers and a lot of blues at the Gut on bucktail and diamond jigs. The Race is producing a lot of blues of the large variety on diamond jigs. Flounder being taken in the bay off the Oyster Factory and at Pipes Cove on worms. Small blackfish at the Brickyard and off Greenlawn on worm or fiddler crabs.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of **Wilhelric II** says that the porgies when weather conditions allow for good drifting, are biting like crazy. Artie says that in both size and quantities, the porgy fishing cannot be beaten. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are devoted to blackfishing. Tuesday was slow due to the strong NW winds but Wednesday saw excellent blackfishing, much better than last week's catch. Artie says however that it is not great as yet due to the water still being warm. On Wednesday the boat caught both slack tides and loaded up. Saturday was an off day due to the strong winds.

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

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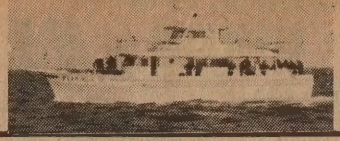

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKS

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** looked over some catches of porgies in the 1 to 1¼ lb. class which came out of Port Jeff Harbor in recent days. Boatmen fishing around slack water near the Lilco pipeline enjoyed very good blackfish action on fiddler and green crabs. Blues anywhere from 2-8 lbs. trolled inshore of buoy 9 and a few flounder beginning to take worm bait in the area. One customer, returning from a session on the Shinnecock Canal Sunday stopped by and showed Stan a bucketful of fair sized fish.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that plenty of blackfish are being caught up to 5 lbs. at all the rocky areas such as Miller Place, Rocky Point and at the rockpile just off the station. Porgies of various sizes are mixed in with them at those spots and also at Old Field Point. Lots of 2 to 15 lb. bluefish off the station by trollers, jiggers and whathave you. Ralph weighed in 6 gorillas from 14 to 16 lbs. this week.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station informs us that porgies have slowed and seem to be on their way out. Catches have been fair this week. Blackfish are now in the lime light, best at Cranes Neck, Old Field Point, the jetties at Port Jeff, Mt. Sinai and Rocky Point. Blacks are running up to 9 lbs. hitting green crabs best, then fiddlers. Lots of burgalls, fellows. Some big blues along the beaches. Mike Kutzing of Port Jeff bagged an 18¼ lb. blue from the beach on a bunker chunk. Early morning in the pre-dawn dark, has been best. Plenty of blues for trolling and jigging, particularly off White Beach. Lots of small schoolies which are hitting just before daybreak on many of the local beaches on worms, Rebels and Hopkins. The hot spot has been the castle on East Beach, Port Jeff Harbor.

NORTHPORT

Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said that blues in the 2-5 lb. class continue to please boatmen at the obstruction buoy. These choppers are being jigged and also trolled on umbrella rigs. Bottom fishing now is a sure bet, with blackfish, porgies and flounder all providing good action. Blacks and porgies in good supply at buoy 11B, Eaton's Neck, while flounder fans have been taking flatties at Duck Island and along the Ashroken shore.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** called to say that Huntington Station angler John Collins decked a 7½ lb. striped bass on Saturday morning's run. The big surprise of the day was a 400 plus lb. sunfish sighted off buoy 14 at Eatons. Delores Schmidt of Woodbury won the 6 p.m. pool with a 16½ lb. bluefish. She also took the 2 p.m. pool on Saturday's trip with a 6½ lb. blue and Sunday's bottom trip with a 2 lb. flounder. On Sunday morning's trip an excellent catch of blues was made. Scott Schlager of Huntington Station took that pool with a 9 lb. 3 oz. striper.

From **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** we learned that very good action with big porgies continues at Eaton's Neck.

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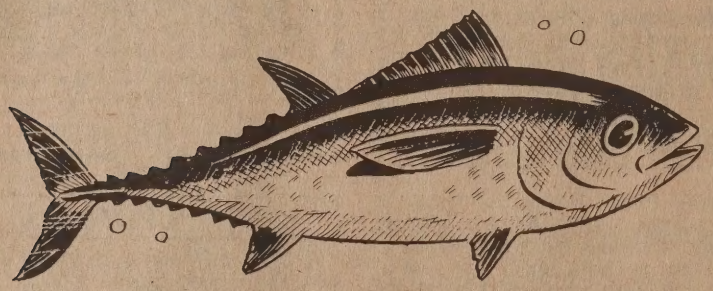

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The fish are real humpbacks averaging 1½ lbs. and running to 3 lbs. Blackfish mixed with the porgies at Eaton's Neck. Mort Stern, Jamie Klein and Len Marcus had a fine mixed bag of blackfish, porgies and sea bass using fiddlers, green crabs and clams at buoy 11B on the weekend. Flounder have shown slight improvement in the bay and 2-4 lb. blues remain at the obstruction buoy in good numbers. Some bass being worm trolled and also taken on white bucktails and umbrella rigs in the rips with wire line.

GLEN COVE

From **Glen Cove Sport Shop**, Dave passed along news of bass being worm trolled along local beaches. While lots of the fish are shorts, some keepers and an occasional big fish are mixed in. Peter Souzzi had fish of 14, 17 and 30 lbs. Thursday night fishing around Maxwell's. An occasional big blue taken in the Harbor on bunker, but this action is far from steady. Very good flounder fishing and fish to 2 lbs. being taken on worms and blackfish on rocky bottom with fiddlers.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

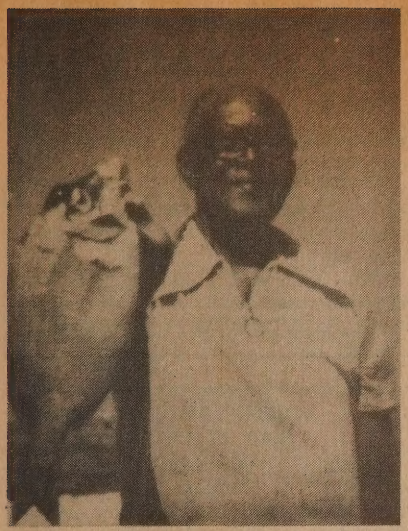
★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

CITY ISLAND

Capt Joe Ferrara of the **Ebb Tide II** tells us that his passengers are connecting with good catches of porgies and blacks on every trip. The boat is fishing off Norwalk, Lloyd's and buoy 32A.

Susan Fratangelo hefts husband Bob's pool winning 18 lb. chopper taken aboard the Glen Cove open boat, "Lady Lil II."



George Letman displays the 2½ lb. porgy he landed on a sandworm aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide II."

Boatmen have been doing well with blacks at Execution Light and No Nations using fiddlers and green crabs, according to Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle**. Biggest weighed in this past week was an 11 lber. Flounder action has been fair in the area and school bass are again being worm trolled behind Hart's Island. Rebels and bucktails take some fish also.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

For many surfmen, the 20 lb. mark for bluefish is a much sought after goal. The percentage of casters who have attained this goal over the years are probably less in number than those who have reached that magic 50 lb. mark. Jason Colby of Long Beach, who is as finely tuned as anyone to the complexities of using rigged eels for big stripers, racked up some very impressive statistics during three nights of working western south shore beaches last week. A few have found that 20 lb. mark difficult to come by, you'll find little solace in Jason's mid-week tally.

To go along with nearly 20 choppers from 13 to 19¾ lbs., the hard fishing angler put away blues of 20¼, 21¼, 22.2 lbs. and 22 lbs. 12 oz. Added to the blues were nine stripers from 20 to 36 lbs.

For many Long Island surfmen last week's action along many south shore beaches was reminiscent of years

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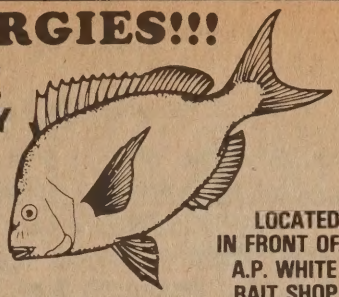

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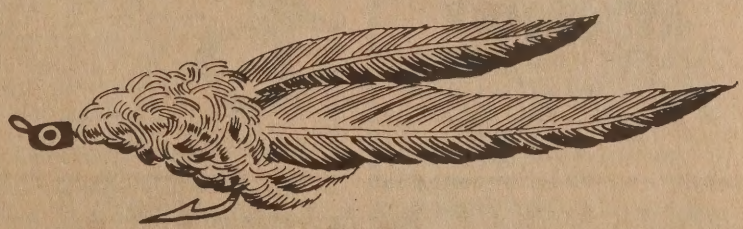

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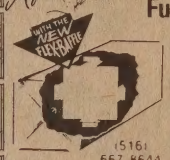

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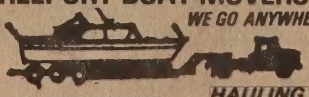

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Signed: Richard Reina, Publisher

gone by. Although blues provided the action in most areas, stripers played a part in the surge of surf activity also. Before getting into the reports, a reminder that the newly formed Montauk Surfcasters Association will hold its second meeting at 1PM on Saturday, November 1 at the Montauk Chamber of Commerce Building located on Montauk Highway. Last month's organizational meeting was a tremendous success and the group is looking to further boost its membership. Anyone interested in more information can write to the Montauk Surfcasters Association, P.O. Box 55, Montauk, New York 11954 or call Mr. Tony Lucca at 516-957-1056 after 5PM.

South Shore

In the Staten Island area, Penny Beach continues to produce school bass for worm fishermen, according to Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop**. Down at Cliff Street, these same schoolies are being taken on Kastmasters and small bucktails. Lenny described the action as a steady pick and expects that some bigger fish should be moving into the area shortly. Big blues and weaks still taking bunker baits cast from the bar at the entrance to Great Kills Harbor. This action is restricted to during the night and an hour after sunrise.

Artie told me from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in Jamaica Bay that the local bridges are still surrendering some nice blues, weaks and bass. Al Trinidad used bunker chunks to take weaks of 7½ and 10½ lbs. from the south channel bridge. On Friday, Ben Vani fished the same bridge to take a 21¾ lb. bass while his son Ben, Jr. used a whole bunker to take a 12¾ lb. bluefish. Fishing from the Marine Parkway Bridge, Ed O'Neil and Ed Moran used live eels to land 4 big blues from 12 to 14½ lbs.

From his Island Park Tackle Shop, Charlie Beckman reported he weighed in bass of 24¾ and 12½ lbs. for Mike Lang of Long Beach. Mike fished one of the Atlantic Beach jetties with a Danny swimmer and had a 9¾ lb. weak along with the two stripers. As a side note, Charlie mentioned that the area is currently loaded with bunker.

Bernie Haag relayed his report from the **Long Beach Sports Marina** to tell of wild bluefish action Thursday and Friday at Grand, New York and Pennsylvania beaches. Blues in the 2-7 lb. class had pushed anchovies tight to the beach and provided anglers with limitless action from 2 to 7PM. Bill O'Brien of Long Beach used 20 casts to put 20 fish on the beach before taking a breather. Bernie added that poppers seemed to be preferred by most of the casters, but everything caught fish.

A pair of trophy stripers came out of the Gilgo-Sore Thumb stretch of shore last week. Reportedly, a 54 was taken off of the Thumb on a RedFin while a live eel undid a 55 lber. down at Gilgo. Bluefish provided very good action at times along this stretch of beach between Tuesday and Thursday and to spice the fishing many of the blues were in the 10 to 14 lbs. range. While live eels and bunker took most of the big blues, plugs worked for some anglers.

Big blues were no strangers to Democrat Point on the opposite side of Fire Island Inlet. Dave at **J&R Sport Shop** in Oakdale looked over some big choppers that came out of the Democrat surf on live eels. George Sinicropi of Bohemia stopped by with 5 blues from 8 to 14½ lbs. which he took last Wednesday. On Friday, Tom Plunkett weighed in a huge chopper that tipped the scale at 19 lbs. 4 oz. Marty Burke used a tin to take a 15½ lb. chopper Sunday morning. Newly accessible parking field #4 at Robert Moses State Park was also the scene of bluefish blitzes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Fish to 17 lbs. were in evidence on Tuesday, while fish from 2-5 lbs. made up the bulk of the action the next two days. Catches of 25 fish per man were not unusual.

Some excellent action with blues in the Moriches surf also during last week and in addition, some nice bass were mixed in. Bill Deluca of **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** told me that at least three fish in the thirties were taken one day last week in the midst of a bluefish blitz. Choppers have ranged anywhere from 2 to 18 lbs. and have been taken on plugs, tin and bait.

The eastern sand beaches were certainly not wanting for blues last week. Fish were spread from Westhampton through Southampton to Amagansett. The hottest fishing was apparently Wednesday and Thursday with fish up to 16 lbs. taken best on white or yellow popping plugs. Bass were mixed with the blues here also. Steve Mars used a popper to take 8 blues up to 16 lbs. as well as bass of 24 and 25 lbs. Kevin O'Brien and Steve Archie did a number on the choppers over the two days. They encountered a school of fish from 12 to 16 lbs. and used poppers to do a job on the fish. Best action was in the early AM and in the evening.

During the week, Montauk had its share of weaks and bass. Action slowed over the weekend as Saturday's big blow did a pretty fair job of dirtying up the water. Anglers clicking with bass during the week were Dan Mass with fish of 37 and 33 lbs. taken on tin at North Bar. Ted Chesley fished North Bar Wednesday morning and took 5 bass up to 28 lbs. Harry Kowalski had 5 stripers including fish of 25 and 26 lbs., same morning at North Bar and Ozzie

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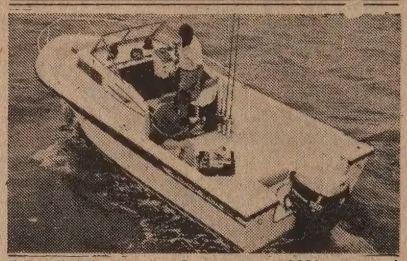

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Mehrhof had a 22 lber. in addition to a few lesser fish. From Friday through Sunday, fish were taken at the Point. Joey Bragan worked weakfish rock and put away 3 bass in the thirties and 2 in the twenties while his son Joe, Jr. clicked with a 20 lber. Willie Oslo had a 36 and Bruce Tuma a 25 lber. under the light. Ken VanDerlaske worked Scotts to take a 30 lber. Johnny Kronuch who handles the weigh-ins for many of Montauk's casters added that the south side had been quiet most of the week with the exception of a few blues Saturday at Ditch Plains. Shagwong finally showed a sign of life Sunday PM with a couple of teen bass and quite a few shorts taken on RedFins.

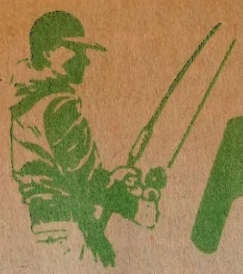
North Shore

Greg told me from his **City Island Bait and Tackle Shop** that the school bass action picked up again after last week's lull. Turtle Cove and the Orchard Beach lagoon produced fair numbers of fish ranging from shorts up to 10 lbs. on Rebels, bucktails and sand worms.

From his **Glen Cove Sport Shop**, Dave reported that there are quite a few small stripers scattered along local beaches. Many of these fish are shorts. Dave did know of an occasional big bass or blue taken on mackerel and bunker chunks fished on the bottom in the area.

Locally, some big blues and a few small bass provided some action along the beach at Crab Meadow, according to Ronnie of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** in Huntington. The only surf caught bass weighed in during the week was a product of Montauk. Steve Torino checked in the 33 lber. along with 3 nice weaks he took Sunday night under the light.

Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that blues are in and out along local beaches. Stan got out himself Saturday AM and put away a 17 lb. chopper on 12 lb. test. The big blue took a pencil popper. Some bass along the beaches also east of Wading River. Tom Brady who helps Stan out at the shop had a 20 lber. Sunday night in addition to 4 schoolies. He used a Creek Chub swimmer to take his fish. Small jointed Rebels have been accounting for most of the bass coming from the area however.



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